Hafa Adai!

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POLL RESULTS

Do you conduct emergency drills at home?

Yes-**6**

No-**49**

Sunday, September 21, 2008

INSIDE

$700B Bailout

The Bush administration asked Congress on Saturday for the power to buy $700 billion in toxic assets clogging the financial system and threatening the economy as negotiations began on the largest bailout since the Great Depression.

Business...Page 15

Deadly Blast

A suicide bomber detonated a dump truck packed with a ton of explosives outside the Marriott in Pakistan's capital Saturday, setting off a fiery blast that shattered the luxury hotel, killed at least 42 people and wounded hundreds, officials and witnesses said.

Asia...Page 17

Gregory steps down as AG

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Attorney General Matthew Gregory, whose tough anti-corruption efforts have at times made him a lighting rod for criticism in the CNMI, resigned from his post Sunday with plans to return to private practice as an attorney.

See GREGORY on Page 4

> *A lot of the charges we have made are against some of the most powerful families in the CNMI, and so everybody gets worried about that...But the thing I love about the office is that people are willing to take that risk. Few people in the community understand that but it really is a courage that they have that they're often not thanked for.*
>
> **—Attorney General Matthew Gregory**

Candidates quizzed at public forum

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Kagman community got a chance to listen to and interact with the congressional candidates at a forum Saturday evening.

At the three-hour event organized by the Kagman Komunidat Association, the candidates were quizzed about their qualifications and their views on topics such as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's lawsuit on the new immigration law, the Com-

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SIGN ME UP JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

More than a thousand nonresident workers on Saipan flocked to the Job Fair Guam held Saturday afternoon at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater. ***See story on Page 3***

UIC ceases operations

San Antonio Beach Road now like a ghost town

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A locked main gate of the United International Corporation garment factory in San Antonio is seen after it shut down its operations yesterday.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The once busy stretch of Beach Road in San Antonio appeared like a ghost town yesterday after Saipan's major garment manufacturer United International Corp. officially ceased its operations.

Saipan Tribune yesterday afternoon observed no more garment workers seen

See UIC on Page 4

House committee calls for vote on Article 12 initiative. **PAGE 2**

Wiseman finds no vindictiveness in AGO's motion to revoke probation. **PAGE 5**

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTISIA POT MAPROPOPONE NA ATKILONTANO PUBLIKO

Segun gi lai 15-2, I Depattamenton Tano ha anununsia planon atkilon tano publiko giya Saipan, Commonwealth i Sankattan siha na Islas. Todo man-interesao libre munahalom opinion `sino infotmasion pot imapropopone na plano nuson tano publiko. Maprebeniye lokue isigiente siha na infotmasion para benefision publiko tat komo:

i. I tineteka na tano publiko madeskribe komo 003 A 11 (49,450 metro kuatdrao), 003 A 20 (49,503 metro kuatdrao), yan 003 A 19 (10,000 metro kuatdrao) maso sino menos nigaige giya Magpi, Saipan. Kopian lugat este siha nasitiu gaige gi Depattamenton Tano ni libre maina nu I publiku.

ii. I para u inatkilai Flame Sako Resort yan Spa un kotporasion guine giya Marianas. I membron direktot siha isigiente: Kang Dae Sik, Joon Sung Jung yan Woon Hwa Chung.

I Presidenten I kompania si Kang Dae Sik; Chun Sik Min, Segundo Presidente.

iii. I para u atkila ilugat para u usa gimahatsan fasilidat hotel yan otro siha na fasilidat.

I tetminonestena kontrata para 25 años ya siña ma-ekstende talo 15 años.

I mapropopone na atkilon manegosio as Señot Young Woo Lee.

iv. Libre hao mamaisen kopianestena plano gi Depattamenton Tano ni gaige gi segundo bibienda gi Joeten Dandan, Saipan; offisinanTano Publiko giya Luta yan Tinian.

v. I Depattamenton Tano ta ya otro plano ha resibe gi uson este siha na propiadat publiko giya Magpi, Saipan.

vi. I Sekretarion Depattamenton Tano Publiko siña ha resibe todo ninahalom opinion yan materiat pot este na proposito uttimo gi Oktubre 3, 2008 todo Offisinan Tano Publiku giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong ischil mángámangiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngali milikka ebwe akkatééló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap ekke bwáári Lot No. 003 A 11, eyoor faigh me tiwow sangaras fabwughuw limeigh me tiwow llapal (49,459 square meters), elap me ngáre eghús, Lot No. 003 A 19, faigh me tiwoow sangaras, lima bwughuw elluw (49,503) sq. meters llapal, elap me ngare eghuus, me Lot No. 003 A 20,, seigh sangaras (10,000) sq. meters, llapal, elap me eghus, elo Máschepi, Seipél. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor llól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngare óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Flame Sako Corporation. Schóól Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellol corporation nge Dae Sik Kang me Chun Sik Min.

Samwoolul (President) corporation nge Dae Sik Kange. Vice President nge Chun Sik Min.

iii. Schóól akkilon ebwe yáayá bwuley ngali schagh akkayul hotel me akkaw iimw kka a fillong.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon ebwe ruweigh me limwoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limwoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol akkilon ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property).

Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Young Woo Lee.

iv. Emmwel óubwe bwughil tilighial akkilon mellól bwulasiyool ammwelil falúweer toulap, elo aruwowal pwó(2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Dandan, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Buiding, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

v. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo akkááw pomwol akkilon yeel me Máschepi, Seipél.

vi. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ebwe bwughil aweewe kkaal, aingiingil, mereer amweyút aramas mmwal schagh Ottuubre (October) 3, 2008 mellól Depattamentool Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta me Tchúlúyól..

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot Nos. 003 A 11, 003 A 19, 003 A 20 containing areas of approximately 49,500 square meters, 10,000 square meters, and 49,503 square meters (respectively), more or less, situated in Marpi, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Flame Sako Corporation, a CNMI corporation. The Board of Directors of the corporation are Dae Sik Kang, Joon Sung Jung, and Woon Hwa Chung.

The President corporation is Dae Sik Kang. The Vice President is Chun Sik Min.

iii. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating a resort hotel and spa and related facilities.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Young Woo Lee.

iv. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

v. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Marpi, Saipan.

vi. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before October 3 , 2008 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

Local

House committee calls for vote on Article 12 initiative

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A legislative committee says a vote should be done on the floor of the House of the Representatives on whether to extend the allowable leasehold interest for private lands in the Commonwealth from 55 years to 75 years.

The House Committee on Natural Resources has reported out the legislative initiative without taking a stand on it. Instead, the committee outlined the arguments for and against the proposal, suggested an amendment, and urged the entire House to make the decision.

The amended version incorporates a Senate-approved measure, which would lower the indigenous representation required from corporations wishing to buy land in the Commonwealth. Under this proposal, a corporation would be able to own land even if it is only 51 percent Northern Marianas descent.

Aside from setting a 55-year limit on leasehold interest for private lands, the Constitution restricts land ownership to persons of Northern Marianas descent. In order for a corporation to own land, 100 percent of its directors must be of Northern Marianas descent, and 100 percent of its voting shares must be NMD-owned.

In its report, the committee said a majority of the comments and testimonies it had received were in favor of passing the legislative initiative. Yet, the committee said the full membership of the House should decide upon the initiative.

Still, the committee report implied support for getting the initiative on the ballot. "[L] and is vital resource, both traditionally and culturally for our people and economically for development. The difficult task of protecting the Commonwealth, while trying to encourage economic development in order to improve the lives of our people, is a conundrum that may very well be resolved ultimately by the people," the report stated.

Proponents of the initiative say a change in the CNMI's land alienation policy change is vital to economic recovery. They contend that longer lease terms will make the Commonwealth more attractive to foreign investors.

Opponents say that current land ownership rules must remain in place in order to protect the interests of the indigenous people.

A legislative initiative requires a two-thirds vote in each chamber of the Legislature. Once it clears both the Senate and House of Representatives, the initiative will be placed on the ballot for the voters' ratification.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE
PTI would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on September 23rd, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before September 23rd.
THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION PTI CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.
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Court denies request of man compelling Fund to pay his benefits

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has denied a request of a man, who has a claim for disability, to compel Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund's Board of Trustees administrator and chief executive officer Mark A. Aguon to immediately pay him his Fund benefits.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ruled that petitioner Jesus A. Arriola has been unable to obtain certification of his disability from a vocational rehabilitation counselor.

Arriola has also failed to establish that he has a clear legal right to the relief sought, said Wiseman in denying petitioner's request for mandamus order.

The petitioner has asked the court to issue an order instructing Aguon to immediately pay or cause him to be paid the sum of 66 2/3 percent of his salary he was receiving at the time of his disability and separation of service of the government.

Arriola said the period commencing June 21, 2007, to present and continuing on the 15th and last day of each month pending final resolution of his claim for disability.

Wiseman, however, recognized the petitioner's dire situation. He urged the Fund to act with all due urgency to approve or disapprove Arriola's

See COURT on Page 4

Man gets 3-day jail term for child abuse

The Superior Court has imposed a three-day jail term on a man convicted of child abuse.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Vicente Taitano Fitial to five years in prison, all suspended except for the first three days.

Following a plea agreement, Manglona gave the 59-year-old Fitial credit for three days he already served in jail.

The defendant was placed on one year of probation. He was required to pay a $100 court assessment fee and $100 in annual probation fee.

Manglona ordered Fitial to write a letter of apology and have no further altercations with the 12-year-old child.

Fitial was also directed to perform 200 hours of community work service at a minimum of 10 hours per month.

The judge ordered the defendant to return to court for a review hearing on Dec. 10, 2008 at 9am.

"Defendant's failure to appear will result in the issuance of a bench warrant," Manglona said.

The Attorney General's Office filed the case in 2006. Fitial signed a plea agreement with the government. He pleaded guilty to one count of child abuse. ***(Fedie De La Torre)***

Alien workers on Saipan flock to Job Fair Guam

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over a thousand alien workers on Saipan, made up mostly of Filipinos and Chinese, flocked to the Job Fair Guam at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on Saturday afternoon.

The workers are seeking high paying jobs on Guam, which is anticipating a boom in the economy, particularly in the construction business, due to the impending U.S. military buildup.

The job fair is held to help the workers, who were heavily affected by the ailing CNMI economy.

They are also threatened to be dislocated by the ongoing federalization of the CNMI labor and immigration, which will be implemented in June next year.

One of them, Edwin SF. Legacion, used to work with the UIC garment factory, which has already closed shop.

He has been on Saipan since 1991.

Legacion, who is now working at another company, wanted to apply as a mason but could not register due to his work schedule.

He's still hoping the organizers of the job fair could accommodate him.

Those who have registered included cooks, waiters, truck drivers, heavy equipment operators, carpenters, and even janitors.

The workers have submitted application requirements through the United Workers Movement, which will present the documents to the Guam Contractors Association.

The GCA tasked the UWM to prepare the list of applicants.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Thousands of job hopefuls flocked to American Memorial Park amphitheater to submit their credentials for possible employment in Guam through the United Workers Movement NMI during the job fair Saturday afternoon.

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CANDIDATES

From Page 1

monwealth's relationship with the U.S. government, and the struggling local economy.

Seven of the nine candidates showed up to present their plans. Sen. Luis Crisostimo and Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council member Felipe Atalig did not respond to invitations to attend.

The winner in the Nov. 4 election will become the Northern Marianas' first ever delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The forum began with a first round of five questions prepared by the Kagman Komunidat Association. Each candidate had two minutes to respond to each question. The second round consisted of questions from the audience. This time, a one-minute limitation was imposed. Finally, each candidate was given five minutes to deliver his closing remarks.

Washington Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio touted as a selling point the experience he gained and the relationships he built over the seven years he has served as the CNMI's representative to the nation's capital. Although Congress is ruled by the Democratic Party, Tenorio maintains that a delegate with strong ties to the national Republican Party—such as himself—can open more doors for the CNMI than any independent candidate with no party affiliation.

Former Sen. David Cing, who is representing the NMI Democratic Party, made the same argument, despite his party not being recognized by the national organization. "You can't just be anybody to get anything done in Congress," he said.

But businessman Chong Won, a first-time candidate for public office, disagreed. He said sincerity and an ability to articulate one's point are more important than political ties.

Most of the candidates opposed the lawsuit the governor has filed in a bid to block the pending takeover of local labor and immigration. Gregorio Kilili Sablan, a former lawmaker and former executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission, said that he, if elected, would take the diplomatic approach and help get the governor's concerns addressed through negotiation or legislation. For his part, retired judge Juan T. Lizama admitted he had not read the governor's complaint; yet, he expressed hope the governor's action would not backlash on any legislation the CNMI's delegate may introduce in Congress.

Asked about the economy, most agreed that the Commonwealth needs to tap more into federal grants and attract foreign investments that would create jobs for the indigenous. Local TV talk show host John Oliver Gonzales said one of the first things he will do, if elected, is to "hire the best grant writers" to make sure the CNMI gets as much federal funds as possible.

John Davis, a high school teacher, was the only one to speak against federal aid and foreign investments. He stressed the importance of economic self-sufficiency, saying the CNMI should not be reduced to begging for help. "We have to start taking care of ourselves," he said.

Community members who attended the event said they appreciate having had the chance to get to know the congressional candidates.

"I think this was a great opportunity for the candidates to come out and introduce themselves," said Rep. Tina Sablan. "There are quite a few candidates who really hadn't been involved in politics before. It was wonderful that the community had a chance to get to know them, as well as the more seasoned politicians. Unfortunately, two of the candidates didn't show up."

Asked to comment on the candidates' performance, Sablan said each candidate had qualities and statements that she found notable. Some examples she cited were Tenorio's experience in public service, Davis' "blunt honesty," and the fresh quality of Gregorio Sablan's election platform.

She said she hopes there will be more opportunity for the community to interact with the candidates.

House Floor Leader Joseph James Camacho praised what he described as Gregorio Sablan's "tempered" responses to the questions. "I like that he emphasized the importance of working together with the federal government while, at the same time, continuing to represent the people here in the Commonwealth. I think he delivered that message very clearly," Camacho said.

Gregorio Cruz, president of the Taotao Tano citizen group, said he found the forum to be "very educational." Cruz, who co-hosted the event with high school teacher Ambrose Bennett, said he was most impressed by Won's performance at the forum.

"I think Mr. Chong Won really touched a lot of people tonight. All the rest talked about general campaign stuff, but I think he spoke from the heart. Despite his inexperience, his statements really got to me," Cruz said.

For his part, businessman Alex Sablan said, "I think the candidates did a good job of answering the questions. After tonight's performance, everybody can have an opportunity to make a good decision about who the best candidate is."

AGNES E. DONATO

Seven of the nine congressional candidates showed up to present their plans during the public forum organized by the Kagman Komunidat Association Saturday evening.

COURT

From Page 2

disability application without further delay.

The petition was heard on Sept. 2, 2008. Attorney Jeanne Rayphand, counsel for Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., appeared for Arriola. Attorney Viola Alepuyo argued on behalf of Aguon.

Wiseman refused to dismiss the petition. He cited there is no statute expressly prohibiting the Fund's administrator and chief executive officer from being sued in his official capacity.

Wiseman said the other issue that demands immediate resolution in the case was whether mandamus is appropriate.

The second issue, he said, is whether the Fund is required to pay an applicant estimated disability benefits pending official determination of eligibility by the Fund Board of Trustees.

On the appropriateness of mandamus, Wiseman said if the Board was required to pay interim payments to all members who submitted incomplete applications such as those applications without certifications of disability by physicians or otherwise, "it would invite abuse, fraud, and waste, because any member regardless of the merits of his or her application could receive interim payments without regard to the actual merits of his or her application."

"The Court can not encourage such a situation," Wiseman said.

On the estimated disability benefits issue, the judge said he agrees with Arriola that forcing him to wait patiently for the Board to conclude its process over his eligibility before he can collect interim payments that he claims he is due before any board determination is made would deprive him of a right of payment guaranteed by statute and perhaps his only means of self-sustenance.

"To obtusely insist upon strict adherence to an exhaustion doctrine when it is evident that any further delay to resolving this issue may irreparably harm Mr. Arriola is not the intention of the exhaustion doctrine," he pointed out.

UIC

From Page 1

crossing the crosswalk in front of UIC.

Neither Chinese workers were spotted riding bicycles nor workers milling around pickup trucks selling assorted fresh vegetables.

Only one Filipino security guard was seen inside UIC compound.

"Before it's like a Chinatown in Manila here. Now it's like a ghost town," said the guard who refused to be identified.

He said many UIC workers mostly longtime employees—Chinese, Filipinos and Thais—already left the island.

The guard said many workers stayed with UIC for many years because its president, James Lin, is a very nice and supportive employer.

He said some Filipino workers had been in the factory for 17 years.

The guard said he started to work at UIC since 1996 and had held many jobs.

"Our salaries were never delayed even holidays. If you extended even 15 minutes of work, Mr. Lin and the management would pay your overtime," he said.

He said most workers, particularly those who had been at UIC for more many years, were very sad when the engines in the factory finally stopped operating two weeks ago.

In 2000, workers at UIC reached over 1,000 mostly Chinese. At that time, 250 workers were Filipinos. Last year only 50 of the 250 Filipinos were left.

The Department of Labor effective yesterday revoked the work permits of 229 foreign workers of UIC following the closure.

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Herbert D. Soll, however, granted transfer relief to the alien workers.

Soll directed each worker to register with Labor's Division of Employment Services no later than Oct. 6, 2008.

The hearing officer gave each worker 30 days from the date of registration in which to find a suitable new employer and submit a signed employer intent form to the Employment Services.

With the shutdown, UIC joined seven other garment factories that closed since the start of 2008, affecting over a thousand workers.

With UIC's closure, only three garment factories remain operational.

Many garment factories on Saipan started ceasing operations in January 2005 when the World Trade Organization lifted trade quotas.

CNMI used to have 34 garment factories, contributing some $60 million in direct taxes a year to the local government.

GREGORY

From Page 1

Appointed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial two and a half years ago, Gregory defined his term as attorney general through major prosecutions involving white-collar crimes, several successful efforts to recover millions in federal tax money owed to the CNMI, and working to help the government meet local energy needs.

Under Gregory's leadership, the Attorney General's Office was deeply involved in the investigation that led to the recent federal indictment of Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez and three others over an alleged scheme to bilk the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation out of thousands through needless chemical purchases.

Gregory announced his resignation in a statement, saying it will take effect Sept. 27.

"The individuals from this office fearlessly fight to take back our Commonwealth at severe career risk," he wrote, pointing to his office's record of combating fraud and corruption. "We helped prove once and for all that no one is immune from prosecution, although it has resulted in vicious criticism by those who don't support such efforts."

As AG, Gregory said in the statement, his office has won major monetary awards on behalf of the Commonwealth through litigation with the Internal Revenue Service, cases that brought $33 million into the government's coffers at a time when cuts had scaled back its budget by 20 percent.

At the height of Saipan's electric power crisis, Gregory's office also became a major proponent of alternative energy by working with the Fitial administration on the development of geothermal power and soon to be finalized regulations letting the private sector supply power to CUC through a process known as net metering.

Moreover, the AG's investigators have seen significant strides fighting crimes like copper wire theft, marriage fraud, and corruption among government officials, Gregory noted, giving thanks to his staff and Fitial for their support.

After the release of his statement, Gregory said in an interview that his resignation comes after lengthy talks with the governor.

"I've actually stayed on a little longer to address a few things," he said, noting continued litigation with the IRS and the pending release of net metering rules. "I am happy to have served the Commonwealth but I also think it's time for me to move on with my life."

Gregory acknowledged that the work he has done during his term as attorney general often sparked criticism but his staff has nevertheless put their careers on the line to fight corruption in the CNMI.

"A lot of the charges we have made are against some of the most powerful families in the CNMI, and so everybody gets worried about that," he said. "But the thing I love about the office is that people are willing to take that risk. Few people in the community understand that but it really is a courage that they have that they're often not thanked for."

Looking ahead, Gregory said the federal takeover of local labor rules on the horizon and economic troubles pose major challenges for the CNMI but there is reason for optimism, such as increased tourism and the prospect Asiana Airlines may soon provide additional flight service to the Commonwealth.

"While federalization has the capacity to damage the economy of the Commonwealth, we have increasing tourism numbers and you'll soon find out there is going to be a significant increase in flights," he said. "I believe we may see 19 additional flights in the next few months. So it's a couple steps forward and one step back. Federalization is a negative but there are positives developing in parallel."

Fitial, he added, will likely appoint a new attorney general in the near future.

Wiseman finds no vindictiveness in AGO's motion to revoke probation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has junked the allegations of a defendant in a traffic case that the Attorney General's Office's vindictiveness was the motive in moving to revoke his probation.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman said it is the government's fault defendant Swingley P. Ringlen did not comply with the terms of his probation for over three years.

Wiseman said it is also not the government's responsibility that Ringlen committed new offenses and was found guilty.

"A probationer must abide by the terms of their probation or face its revocation," he said.

Ringlen, according to Wiseman, elected to violate and not comply with the terms of his probation over the course of three years.

The judge, however, stated he is troubled by the allegation that the AGO called the defendant's place of employment.

"This is not a practice that this Court can approve of," Wiseman emphasized.

Court records show that in May 2005, Ringlen was found guilty in a traffic case. One element of the defendant's agreement is that he "obey all laws of the U.S. and the CNMI."

In June 2008, the defendant was found guilty again in another traffic case.

During the intervening three years since Ringlen was found guilty in the 2005 traffic case, his probation had been extended due to noncompliance with the terms of his sentence.

Wiseman

During a review hearing for the 2005 traffic case on June 17, 2008, the AGO made the motion to revoke the probation.

At that time, Ringlen failed to pay the tuition for the class he was required to attend; failed to pay to Crime Stoppers; and failed to obey all laws clause in his probation.

Three days later, Ringlen's counsel moved to continue the sentencing hearing in the 2007 traffic case on the grounds that the defendant would be starting a new job on the date of the hearing.

Wiseman heard the motion on that day. He did not grant the motion, but waived defendant's appearance at the June 23, 2008 hearing.

Ringlen claims, that because he did not appear that the government then proceeded to contact his employer to verify his employment and start date of work and informed them of his sentencing hearing.

Assistant Public Defender Richard Miller, counsel for Ringlen, moved the court to deny the government's motion to revoke probation on the grounds of prosecutorial vindictiveness in violation of his right to due process.

Miller cited the history of the probation in the 2005 traffic case, the procedural history of the 2007 traffic case involving new traffic charges, and a telephone call made on behalf of the AGO to Ringlen's employer on June 23, 2008 regarding the two cases.

The AGO moved the court to revoke the probation based on noncompliance with the terms of his probation, namely nonpayment of fees and a new law violation.

Ringlen asserted that the imposition of penalty is only being pursued because he has exercised a legal right.

In denying the motion, Wiseman pointed out that Ringlen fails to state what legal right he exercised that the AGO is allegedly reacting against.

In this case, Wiseman said, the defendant had numerous conversions of terms of probation and other considerations granted to him, most of which were at the urging of the prosecution.

"Such considerations, notwithstanding the defendant still had not shown diligence in complying with his probation terms," he said.

The judge noted that the trial held on June 17, 2008 found the defendant guilty of a new charge unrelated to the probation alleged violations which were the subject of the government's motion to revoke.

Wiseman agreed that prosecutorial vindictiveness should play no role in sentencing or prosecuting decisions.

However, in this case, he said, he finds no evidence of direct prosecutorial vindictiveness nor does the government's action have the appearance of such.

Wiseman said he finds that AGO in fact worked continuously with Ringlen to assist him in complying with the terms of his probation including converting monetary fines into community service when he was able in order to alleviate the length of the probation.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Live fire training on FDM next week

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, said the U.S. military would be conducting live fire training and aerial survey on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla starting Monday next week.

The schedule dates and time are as follow:

- Sept. 22 from 8am to 12pm – Aerial survey
- Sept. 22 from 12pm to 6:30pm – Live fire training
- Sept. 23 – 26 from 5am to 12:59am – Live fire training

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO's Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

Tinian checkpoint set

The Tinian Department of Public Safety will be conducting a seatbelt/child restraint checkpoint on Monday, Sept. 22, 2008, between 7am and 8am on Broadway Road by the former Democratic Headquarters. The second checkpoint will begin at 5pm and end at 6pm on the same date on Broadway Road located next to the Million Poker establishment. ***(PR)***

Public forum with John H. Davis

There will be a public forum to meet with John H. Davis Jr., a candidate for delegate to the U.S. Congress, on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008, 4:30pm - 6:30pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan.

The public is invited to meet with Davis, listen to his views on what he can offer as the CNMI's delegate to the U.S. Congress, and join in the discussion with any questions or concerns that anyone may have. For more information, contact Jeanne Rayphand, 287-9807. ***(PR)***

Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center
ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING
There will be a SPECIAL PTA meeting on
September 23, 2008,
Tuesday, at 6:00pm in the school Cafeteria.
ALSO A FUNDRAISING EVENT
PIZZA NIGHT
On September 24, 2008 • Please support our school.

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Island Snapshots

HAIL TO THE CHIEF
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial delivers his remarks during the commemoration of the 39th Annual Chief Aghurubw festivities on the island of Managaha Saturday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

EMO DEMO
EMO Smart-Net section supervisor Joaquin I. Deleon Guerrero and support staff Ike Borja demonstrate the functions of the ACU 1000, a communication device use mainly for major disasters during the CNMI Emergency Management Office Multi-Cultural Day at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center as part of the activities of Disaster Preparedness Month yesterday. The event includes free presentations and informational displays on disaster preparedness.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CONFIRMATION HEARING
Perry Inos takes questions from Sen. Luis Crisostimo Thursday night on Rota during his confirmation to serve as association Superior Court judge. The Senate later confirmed Inos with a unanimous vote. Lawmakers in the same session confirmed Michael Ada to serve as Secretary of Commerce and Cecilia Celes as Secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.
STEFAN SEBASTIAN

EMO Smart-Net section support staff Ike Borja demonstrates the function of the Incident Commander Radio Interface communication device during the CNMI Emergency Management Office Multi-Cultural Day at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center as part of the activities of Disaster Preparedness Month yesterday. The event includes free presentations and informational displays on disaster preparedness.

START 'EM YOUNG
Four-year-old Ivan Bowen flashes his placard during a peaceful CUC protest rally at the Garapan Fishing Base Wednesday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

RAIN OR SHINE
A family of Japanese tourists spends their afternoon strolling around Garapan area despite the continuous rain showers Friday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-GOV-097
Leak Detection and Repairs – Phase 3

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Proposals from qualified consulting and/or construction firms for the field survey, identification, and repair of water system deficiencies in the Lower MIHA Annex I and 2, Garapan Village and surrounding areas. The selected firm(s) shall use specialized leak detection methods in conjunction with on call construction services and information from the recently completed Chalan Kanoa/Susupe. Leak Detection and Repair Contract on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **September 15,2008.**

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **September 25, 2008** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to local proposers per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118. If preference is claimed, it must be claimed at the time of proposal submission.

Four (4) copies plus one original of the sealed Proposals must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 p.m., (CNMI local time), on September 29, 2008**.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"Leak Detection and Repairs - Phase 3, RFP08-GOV-097"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one (I) original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on September 29, 2008**. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on September 29, 2008**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to **(670) 664-1515** or email procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S, Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 29, 2008** AND must be received no later than **October 8, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government

/s/ Timothy P. Villagomez
Lt. Governor, CNMI

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

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American Samoa boy dies of dengue

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (Samoa News)—Health Department medical director Dr. Ivan Tuliau said there are now 69 confirmed cases of dengue fever for this year and one fatality, which is a 10-year-old boy.

Tuliau told Samoa News yesterday that the youngster passed away two weeks ago. DOH received test results confirming the boy died from dengue fever this week.

"This is a very sad situation for the family to lose a child this young," he said in a telephone interview.

Early this month DOH reported 51 confirmed cases.

As of yesterday, DOH said there are now 69 confirmed cases of dengue fever for 2008 and of these cases 57 percent are male and 43 percent females, ranging from infants to adults.

Asked from which part of the territory the majority of dengue cases are being report, Dr. Tuliau said, "it's basically all over the island but many are in close clustered areas with high populations" such as Fagatogo, Pago Pago, Tafuna and similar areas.

As the number of dengue cases increase DOH is looking at other ways of launching a new awareness program, targeting youngsters.

"Our health team will be meeting this week to discuss our next move in educating the public about the danger of dengue fever and how to prevent it," said Dr. Tuliau. "There was a campaign in Singapore where an awareness program was launched in schools and was very successful in bringing the number of their dengue cases down."

"So we are looking also at targeting schools and will be working with the Department of Education on this important issue," he said, noting that during last year's public awareness they worked with village mayors and the Office of Samoan Affairs.

Last year's cases totaled 109 including one death and Dr. Tuliau said DOH wants to keep the numbers down this year. He added that other Pacific islands are facing the same problem with increasing cases of dengue fever.

The World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday called for more funds for dengue fever, arguing it has reached pandemic proportions in the Pacific.

WHO's Pacific representative, Dr. Kevin Palmer, says the region needs to adopt a multi-sector approach to fight the disease, which is affecting thousands of people.

DOH has issued a statement saying "we implore our community to step up cleaning efforts around the home, village and school areas to help promote the eradication of mosquito breeding sites."

DOH yesterday reiterated it's three D campaign to help fight against dengue.

New species of iguana found in Fiji archipelago

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times)—A new species of Pacific Iguana has been discovered in the Fijian archipelago by a team comprising of Australian and U.S. researchers.

According to a report by ABC News, the team has shown that there are three living species of Brachylophus iguanas, not two as indicated in current taxonomy.

The new species is named Brachylophus bulabula, after the Fijian word for 'hello.'

In the reptile world, the Fijian iguanas are iconic, said lead author Associate Professor Scott Keogh, of the Australian National University's School of Botany and Zoology. To discover a new species of them is very exciting, he added.

The new species was uncovered after analysis of the mitochondrial DNA of 61 iguanas from 13 islands.

The study shows the B. bulabula iguana is genetically and physically different from the two other species.

According to reports, this species has a different colored nose, is intermediate in size, has a slightly different pattern on its body and is found only in the central region of Fiji.

As part of the research, the team also evaluated competing arguments about how the iguana arrived in the Pacific.

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its ***Regular*** meeting on **Thursday, September 25, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.** at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Oath of Office
- D. Adoption of Agenda
- E. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting:
  - 1. August 7, 2008 (Reconvened August 14, 2008)

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS
- A. Report of the Chairman
  - 1. ROC No. 08-011
- B. Report of the Administrator / Correspondence
  - 1. ROA No. 08-011
- C. Report of the Comptroller
  - 1. Financials
    - a) NMIRF
    - b) GHLITF
    - c) WCC
  - 2. Drawdown Request
    - a) August 8, 2008
    - b) August 21, 2008
- D. Reports of the Committees
  - 1. Finance & Investment Committee
    - a) Report No. FIC 08-007
  - 2. Operations & Personnel Committee
    - a) Report No. OP 08-005
  - 3. Policies, Programs & Legislative Review Committee
  - 4. GH&L and WCC Committee
- E. Reports of the Investment Director
  - 1. Status of Investment/Market Condition
  - 2. Report of Housing Loan Program
- F. Communications
- G. Other Matters
  - 1. Committee Composition – Proposed Revision

IV. LEGAL MATTERS
- A. Reports of the Legal Counsels
  - 1. Report of the Board Counsel
    - a) Lawsuit
  - 2. Report of the In-house Counsel
    - a) Update on Administrative Appeals
  - 3. Report of the Hearing Officer

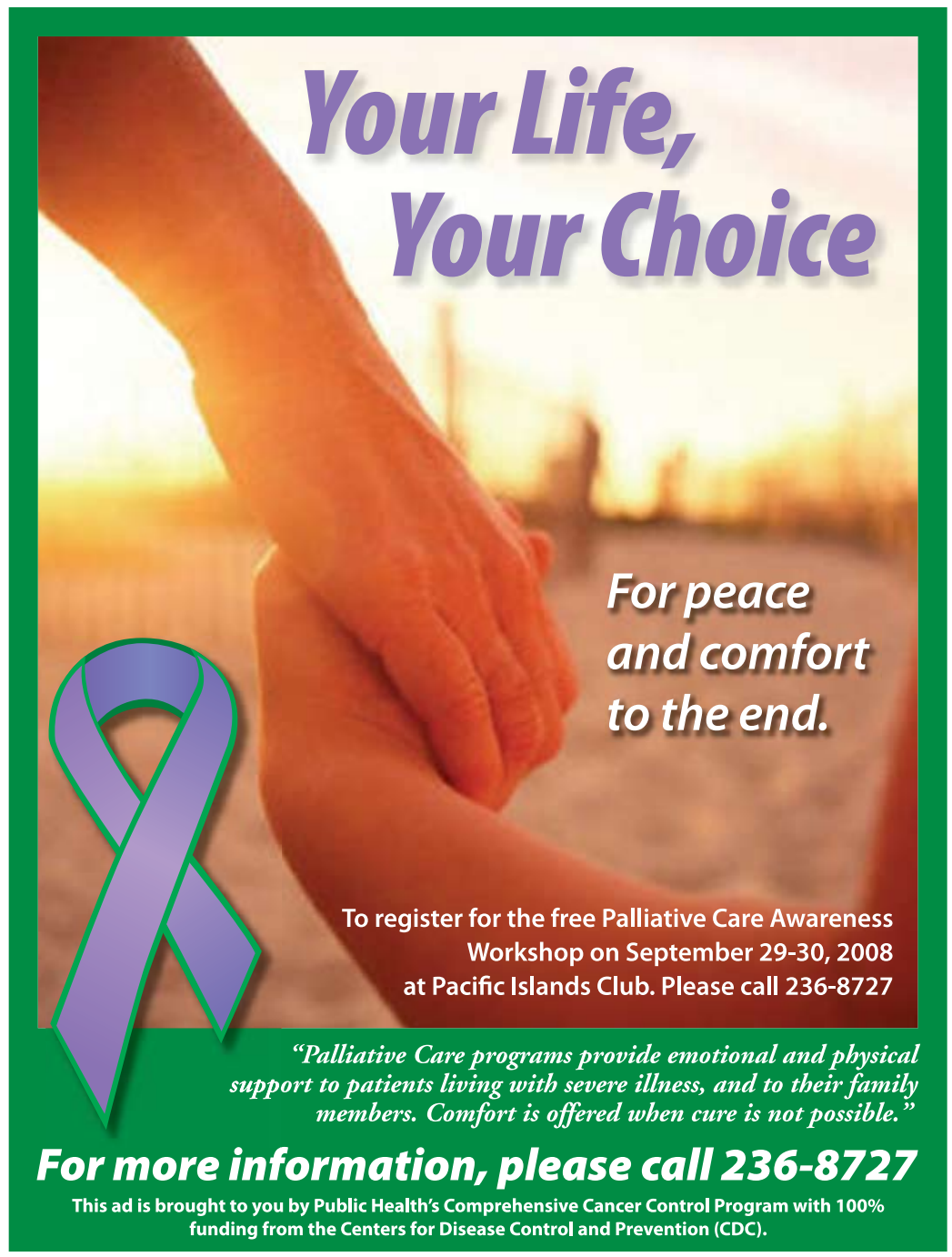
V. OLD BUSINESS
- 1. BR 08-001 Matters
  - a) Pension Application Matters
  - b) P.L. 15-98
  - c) Disability Applicants
- 2. DC Plan Update Report
- 3. Rota and Tinian Office Space
  - a) Rota Office – Advance Payment
- 4. RFP 08-046 – Wrap Fee
- 5. Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
- 6. FY 2009 Budgets - Certification
  - a) NMIRF
  - b) GHLITF
  - c) WCC
- 7. Fund Status

VI. NEW BUSINESS
- 1. Loss Recovery Attorney
- 2. Desk Audits
- 3. Aetna Renewal
- 4. IPS Review

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS
- A. Announcements
- B. Next Meeting
- C. Adjournment

/s/ JUAN T. GUERRERO
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS

Request For Proposal No. RF09-053

OPENING DATE: **SEPTEMBER 8, 2008**

CLOSING DATE: **OCTOBER 23, 2008**

The Board of Trustees, Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund (Fund), is soliciting sealed proposals from private companies to conduct general maintenance repairs on the Fund building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. To receive the RFP packet, e-mail, fax, or mail your request to:

Mark A. Aguon, Administrator
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247 CK
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
Fax: 670/664-8080
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

Major PNG gas project runs into roadblocks

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National)—The government's bid to pass legislation in Parliament in support of the billion-dollar liquefied natural gas (LNG) project is facing a challenge both on the floor of Parliament and in the courtroom.

While the opposition maintained yesterday that it would oppose any vote on the legislation, landowners from Southern Highlands province were expected to file a motion this morning to stop the Government proceeding with its moves until the constitution had been complied with.

Landowner leaders confirmed last night that they believed section 117 of the constitution had not been complied with, and they had the standing and grounds to get the court to uphold their motion.

The landowners said section 117 of the constitution compelled the government to conduct a cost benefit analysis of any resource project.

The analysis should be conducted by the National Economic and Fiscal Commission, and an advice given to the National Executive Council on a project. This was not done for the LNG project, they said.

HAPPY 8TH BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday greetings go out to Aldrin Z. Alfonso who will be celebrating his 8th birthday today, Sept. 22. Greetings from his best friend and schoolmate Marchie Lynn R. Sayas.

United States
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Council on Developmental Disabilities
Call for Special Meeting

Attention General Public:

We the undersigned members, composing of a majority of the membership of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities are hereby calling for a Special Meeting to take place on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 9 am in the NMPASI Conference Room. The meeting is called upon based on the Council on Developmental Disabilities Bylaws (dated June 11, 2007 and January 31, 2003)

Agenda:

I. Welcoming Remarks

II. Roll Call

III. Establishment of Quorum

IV. Executive Session

V. Open Session

VI. Next Meeting

VII. Closure

Dutifully Authorized and Approved by:

Roger Atic, Marissa Guerrero, James Reyphand, Suzanne Lizama, Margarita Olopai-Tattano, David Attao, Edith Deleon Guerrero, Derek Buenas, Cynthia Attao, Howard Macaranas, Jolanda Aquino, Helen Sablan

Northern Marianas College
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A. • Phone: (670) 234-5498
Fax: (670) 234-0759 • Web Site: www.nmcnet.edu

Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents
Board of Regents Conference room, NMC - Saipan Campus
Thursday, September 25, 2008
3:00pm

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- a. Roll Call
- b. Review & Adoption of Agenda
- c. Review & Adoption of Minutes
  - i. July 18, 2008 – Regular Meeting

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS
- a. BOR Standing Committees
- b. President
- c. Associated Students of NMC
- d. Faculty Senate
- e. Staff Senate
- f. CFAO Financial Report

IV. OLD BUSINESS
- a. WASC Accreditation Update
- b. BOR Program Review/Assessment

V. NEW BUSINESS
- a. PROA Strategic Plan 2008- 2012
- b. NMC Closure Plan
- c. KRNM Radio Station
- d. FY2009 Operations Budget

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/Regent Charles V. Cepeda, Chairperson, BOR — September 25, 2008

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

September 10, 2008

To: Homesteaders

The Department of Public Lands Homestead Division will be conducting their monthly site inspections on September 25 & 26, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Areas to be inspected will be As Matuis, Kagman, Dandan and Koblerville homesteads.

Thank you

Homestead Division

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 22, 1999

All Nippon Airways to fly to CNMI
All Nippon Airways will operate 10 Osaka-Saipan charter flights on Dec. 25, 1999 to Jan. 7, 2000 to cash in on the expected influx of Japanese travelers who would want to celebrate the new millennium on the island. The millennium trip was planned by Pacific Micronesia Tours, Inc. and Tasi Tours, subsidiaries of Tokyo-based Japan Travel Bureau Inc., the biggest tour operator in the world. A B767 aircraft, with a seating capacity of 260, will be used in the chartered flights.

HANMI: Let CNMI chart its economic path
The Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands has asked the U.S. House Committee on Resources to allow the Northern Marianas chart its own path to economic maturity, but sought the assistance of the federal government in solving local labor and immigration problems. In his testimony before the committee hearing last week, Ron Sablan, president of HANMI, said the people, businesses and government of the CNMI are more knowledgeable and in a better position to address the needs of the island community.

Scholarship program gets $1 million
Legislators will boost funding for the government scholarship program by about $1 million to try to deal with anticipated deficit that threatens to cut substantial financial assistance to off-island students as well as those attending the Northern Marianas College. Members of the House Ways and Means have decided to slash proposed appropriation for the purchase of new computer hardware to realign funds to the Scholarship's Office, according to its chair Rep. Karl T. Reyes.

September 22, 2000

NMIRF sued over benefits
Former Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos A. Shoda yesterday filed a civil suit against the Northern Marianas Island Retirement Fund in connection with what he called as illegal deductions on his retirement benefits. Mr. Shoda, who retired in December 1997, was informed by NMIRF that his retirement benefits will be adjusted effective April 30,2000 because he was overpaid in the total amount of $19,851.43.

Gov't to lose $10-M under single tax rate
The Department of Finance has projected revenue loss of over $10 million, based on current tax collections, if the government implements a legislative proposal seeking simplified taxation system in the CNMI. The bill would also mean higher taxes for more than three-fourths of wage earners on the islands as well as over two-thirds of business establishments here, according to Finance Sec. Lucy DLG. Nielsen.

Six indicted in illegal gambling case
Six Chinese nationals were indicted yesterday in the U.S. District Court on various criminal charges stemming from alleged illegal gambling operations in the tourist district of Garapan. They pled not guilty to seven counts filed in the indictment, including illegal gambling business and racketeering charges, lodged by federal prosecutors.

September 22, 2002

Outbound traffic shrinks 17 percent
The number of outbound passengers dropped 17 during the first 10 months of the financial year 2002 to 397,708 from the previous year's 481,135, reflecting a significant slowdown in air transport traffic. A report obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority also disclosed that the CNMI needs more than 170,000 people traveling out of the Northern Marianas in the remaining two months of the fiscal year 2002 to reach last year's level of outbound traffic.

NMI divers hold underwater cleanup
Local dive shop Abracadabra yesterday spearheaded an underwater cleanup at the Laulau Bay in observance of Sept. 21 as International Cleanup Day. Alec Hoffman, Abracadabra manager, said his group headed to the bay at about 8:30am to 12pm to collect debris. "We spent the whole morning collecting trash underwater."

‘Body Success Challenge’ competitors lose 695 lbs

Jack Kiyoshi

Fe Mamuyac

The results of Gold’s Gym Saipan’s first-ever “Body Success Challenge” were recently announced and more than $6,000 in cash and prizes were awarded.

The 29 individuals who completed the competition lost a combined total of 695 lbs. The Body Success Challenge had a $100 entry fee and was a three-month competition that started on June 15, 2008, and had 44 initial competitors.

Of the 44 competitors, 29 completed the competition—a 66 percent completion rate—by weighing-in and taking their “after photos” last Sept. 14.

Gold’s Gym co-owner Eric Plinske said “We are extremely proud of all our competitors and absolutely amazed with some of the body transformations that have taken place.”

Following is a summary of the prizes that were up for grabs in the separate men’s and women’s weight loss categories (prizes were awarded for most weight lost as a percentage of original starting weight):

■ First place was $1,000 cash and a free one-year Gold’s Gym membership;

■ Second place was $500 cash and a free six-month Gold’s Gym membership;

■ Third place was $250 cash and a free three-month Gold’s Gym membership.

■ The prize for the Most Amazing Body Transformation Category was $500 cash and a PTI camera phone.

The winners of the women’s weight loss category were: 1st Place – Fe Mamuyac (lost 37.60 lbs; loss of 24.87 percent of initial body weight); 2nd Place – Janel Villegas (lost 33.80 lbs; loss of 18.53 percent of initial body weight); and 3rd Place – Celina Babauta (lost 24 lbs; loss of 14.67 percent of initial body weight).

The winners of the men’s weight loss category were: 1st Place – Jack Kiyoshi (lost 57.60 lbs; loss of 23.30 percent of initial body weight); 2nd Place – David Attao (lost 65.20 lbs; loss of 18.94 percent of initial body weight); and 3rd Place – Francis Mendiola (lost 52.80 lbs; loss of 16.49 percent of initial body weight).

The winner of the Most Amazing Transformation was Jeff Boyer (lost 20 lbs; loss of 10.96 percent of initial body weight; loss of 38.80 percent of initial body fat).

Gold’s Gym Saipan’s Body Success Challenge was primarily a weight loss competition where substantial cash and prizes were awarded to the Top 3 men and top three women who lost the most weight as a percentage of their original starting weight. In addition, there was also a “Most Amazing Body Transformation” category. The winner of the Most Amazing Body Transformation category was chosen by a combination of the most fat lost, the most lean body mass (muscle) gained, and the most visibly impressive body transformation based upon their before and after photos.

Free ‘Tips for Success’ seminars

Participants also had access to free “Tips for Success” seminars at Gold’s Gym each Saturday morning during the first five weeks of the competition. The free seminar topics included “Effective Nutrition for Fat Loss,” “Cardio Training for a High Speed Fat Burn,” “Resistance Exercises that Guaranty Results,” “Accelerating Your Success with Proper Nutritional Supplements,” and “The Latest Technology in Weight Loss–The BodyBugg.”

Based upon the success of the initial Body Success Challenge, Gold’s Gym plans to launch a 2nd Body Success Challenge in January 2009, right after the New Year. For more information about Gold’s Gym or the Body Success Challenge, contact Gold’s Gym at 233-4000, email goldsgym@saipan.com or visit Gold’s Gym located at Garapan Central Park on Kopa Di Oru Street. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

NOTICE OF SECRETARY’S ORDER ON APPEAL

Monday, September 22, 2008 first notice
Monday, September 29, 2008 second notice

Orders have been issued in the cases listed below and the parties have not picked up these orders after attempted service. By this notice, these parties are served with a copy of the order, which may be picked up at the Administrative Hearing Office, as of the second publication of this notice.

Case No.	Appellant	Appelllee
LC 06-091	Capital Corporation	Fan, Zhi Yan
LC 06-092	Happy Inc.	Lu, Jin Hong
LC 06-104	Lacanlale, Noemi G.	Director of Labor
DC 06-372	Zhi, Hang Inc.	Director of Labor
DC 06-372	Zou Yong Su	Director of Labor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

NOTICE OF CLOSURE
AGENCY, LABOR, AND DENIAL CASES

Monday, Sept. 22, 2008 first notice
Monday, Sept. 29, 2008, second notice

Each of the cases listed below has been adjudicated or dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office, Department of Labor. In each case, this is a final administrative order with prejudice and the agency case, labor case, or denial case has been closed by the Department. All claims, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been either adjudicated or dismissed. Any complainant or employee of one of the respondents listed below who has not been served personally with the hearing officer’s order adjudicating or dismissing the case is now, as of the date of second publication of this notice, served with the order. A person served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the hearing officer’s order from the Administrative Hearing Office. A person whose claim has been dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days from from the date of second notice in which to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior order served personally or by mail on any person.

CASE #	COMPLAINANT	EMPLOYER
08-006	Susan, Antonio A.	Ada, Edward B. (deceased)
05-356	Li, Minglong	Aldan, Vicente M.
07-315	Ramos, Gracita M.	American Joint Partner Corp., Ltd.
98-402	Zhang, Zhanshan	American Kai Hua Corp.
98-402	Zheng, Fengrong	American Kai Hua Corp.
04-698	Yan, Luo	American Langente Corp.
07-072-05	Director of Labor	Chang Cheng Int’l, Inc. and He, Jing Hua
01-172	Liu, Geng Rong	Crystal Star Corp.
01-172	Zhang, Jiaxian	Crystal Star Corp.
05-336	Li, Zhen	Date Corporation
05-336	Peng, Shue Xiong	Date Corporation
07-020-02	Director of Labor	DLZ American Corp. and Alan Leung
05-368	Micronesian Brokers Inc. (ER)	Doila, Maria M. (EE)
07-075-06	Director of Labor	Domingo, Crispina F. aka Salazar, Grace
DC 06-325	Hua, Bofu	Edward C. Cabrera
DC 06-326	Bao, Yuhua	Edward C. Cabrera
DC 06-327	Wang, Yanni	Edward C. Cabrera
07-079-06	Director of Labor.	Guzman, Linglingay
06-143-11	Director of Labor	Herman’s Modern Bakery
99-194-05	Director of Labor	Hole In The Wall and Misamis Saipan, Inc.
00-264	Heo, In Sook	Jeon Co., Inc. and Kuk Young Jen
07-008	Gu, Xuetian	Jing Yang Corp., et. al.
05-026-03	Director of Labor	Joshua Generation Int’l Academy
01-025-03	Director of Labor	Li Heng Ltd.
SA 06-037	Aleta, Danilo Jr.	Lincoln Delos Santos
06-066-05	Director of Labor	Long Teng Development Corp.
07-267	Antalan, Edwardo B.	Maria E. Pelisamen
08-024	Zou, Wei	Mei Li Saipan, Inc.
07-279	Zhao, Chun Xiu	Neo Fashion, Inc. and Marianas Ins. Co., Ltd.
01-060-04	Director of Labor	NET Corporation
05-166	Jiang, Lirong	New Echo Ent. Corp.
07-128	Pangan, Fe V.	New Three Diamond Co., Ltd.
06-140-10	Director of Labor	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.
08-005-01	Director of Labor	Pelisamen, Maria E.
07-084-08	Director of Labor	Pelisamen, Maria E. and De Luna, Raymond DLC
07-084-08	Director of Labor.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC
06-230	Xia, Li Ying	Rifu Apparel Corporation
07-195	Dumdumaya, Salve M.R.	Roy Jen Enterprises
07-073-05	Director of Labor	Seki, Wen Mei and Henry
07-168	Wang, Ju	Sheng Rong Development Corp.
07-169	Zhang, Xiuyun	Sheng Rong Development Corp.
05-216	Lua, Vivian E.	Sheu’s Brothers Holding Co., Ltd.
08-039	Liu, Dong Fan	Smart Guy Company, Ltd.
05-240	Qian, Meiling	Song Yong Jun Dba Banana Karaoke Bar
06-251	Concillado, M. Elvie	Top Fashion Corp.
04-016-03	Director of Labor	Tudela, Victoria T.
04-605	Zhou, Hailan	United International Corp.
05-148	Chen, Jinkun	United International Corp.
04-410	Ye, Jiamin	United International Corp.
04-607	Li, Baofang	United International Corp.
06-106	Xu, Yuan Mei	United International Corp.
06-103-08	Director of Labor	White House Corporation dba Moon Night Club
07-280	Llagas, Jerry M.	Willie L. Brundidge Jr. d.b.a. Mozell’s Boys Lawn and Trash Service
06-003-01	Director of Labor	Winners Corporation
08-131-04	Director of Labor	World Apparel, Inc.
08-131-04	Director of Labor	World Apparel, Inc.
07-241	Wei, Yanlin	World Apparel, Inc.
07-363	Song, Liwei	World Apparel, Inc.
08-131-04	Director of Labor	World Apparel, Inc.
07-101	Gu, Jianhua	Yong Cheng Corporation
07-264	Zhuang, Xuezan	Yong Cheng Corporation

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Be prepared

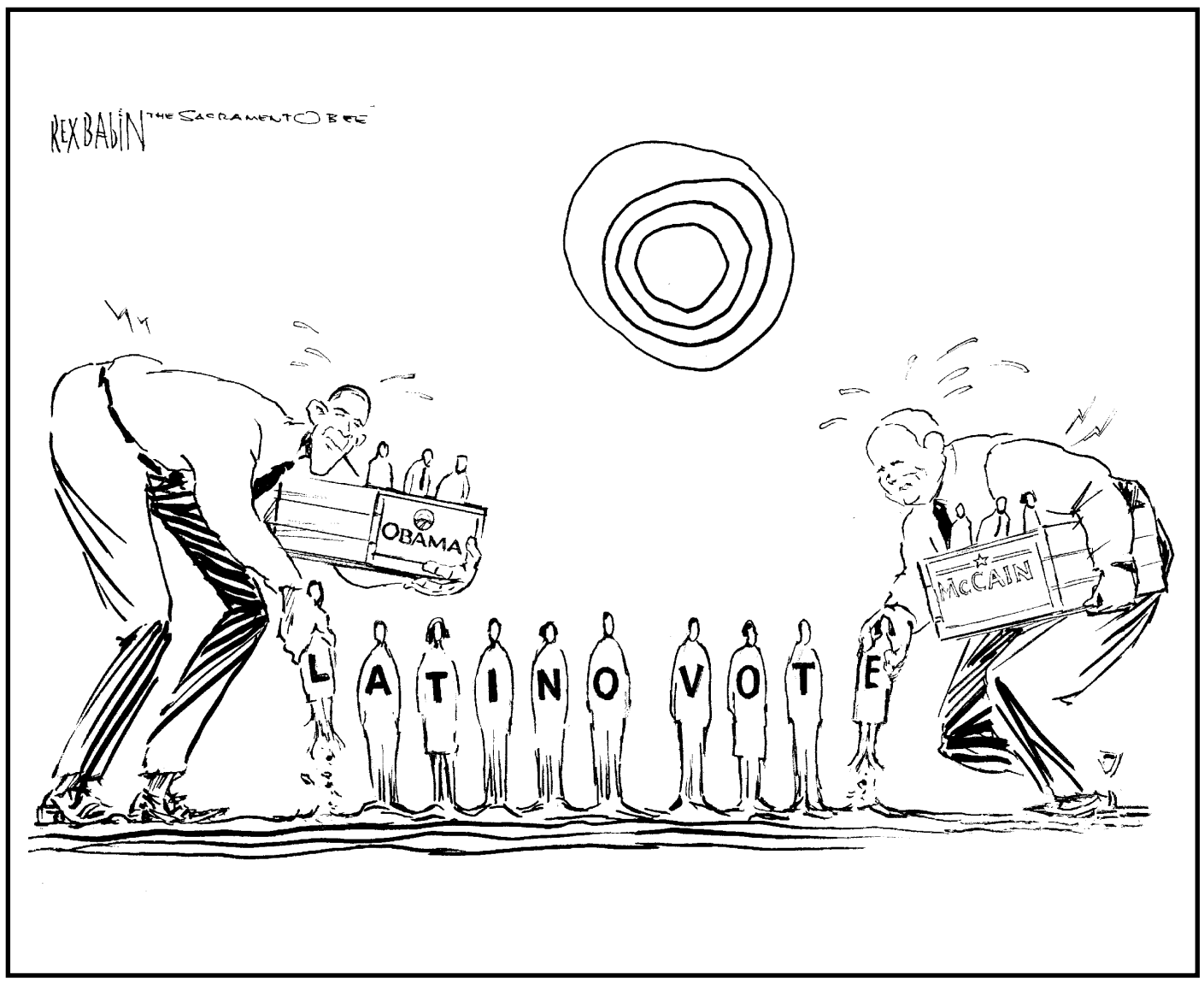
No one wants disasters; no one looks forward to them. From earthshaking catastrophes such as typhoons, earthquakes, tsunamis, and pandemics, to mundane ones like household fires and floods, their personal toll on lives, families, and businesses are much too devastatingly real to be ignored or treated as a pure mental exercise, swept under the rug to be examined later at one's leisure.

With the local economy already teetering on the brink of collapse, nobody can afford not to be prepared for any disaster. The Emergency Management Office said as much: Any major disaster to hit a small island like Saipan may cause the economy to fall apart if businesses are not well prepared for it. EMO chief planner Theodore Untalan and EMO adviser Dr. Ken Shankweiler underscored the importance of businesses, particularly small ones, to prepare for any disaster to minimize losses. Untalan said the national theme is to link up the private sector with the public sector in terms of disaster preparedness to ensure that everyone is prepared. Preparation, after all, is key to surviving one. And this is why September has been declared as Disaster Preparedness Month.

The focus, however, must be expanded so that when one says "everyone," it literally means everyone: not just businesses and government agencies but also individuals and families, to ensure that each one of us know our specific roles when faced with the threat of any disaster. This is why last week's *Saipan Tribune* poll posed the question "Do you conduct emergency drills at home?," to emphasize that disaster preparedness must also extend to the home and the family, the smallest unit of any society. Distressingly enough, majority of respondents said no. When faced with a small fire, a lot of residents won't know how to go about preventing its spread, which could result in the blaze spreading throughout the house and the immediate neighborhood. When a tsunami strikes during school hours, panicked parents would have no way of knowing what is happening with their children without a pre-arranged system of keeping track of everyone.

Which is why the WSR Elementary School must be commended for the recent tsunami drill they conducted. The exercise brought to light some flaws in the system that could be tweaked to improve their response methods. At the same time, it will ease the fear of both children and parents when they know that the school has set in place a system to handle such a scenario. Children, in particular, will know how to respond when faced with the unthinkable. With knowing comes confidence, calmness, and the ability to help those who are less equipped to handle stress.

It is therefore up to EMO to cascade the concept of disaster preparedness to the grassroots level, so that everyone will have a clear understanding of how they should handle disasters. At the same time, everyone must be receptive to the idea that we can't just rely on the government to do everything for us. We must individually make sure that we are equipped to handle emergencies to minimize losses in lives and properties. We have too much to lose to be caught unprepared. ***(Saipan Tribune)***



We have failed in educating our youth!

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

We have failed to educate our youth for many years and as a result we are now feeling the results of that failure. This is a matter which we cannot blame on the government or outside influence. We are to blame solely. The lack of a good education in our youth is our failure because of the low standards we set for ourselves. Now we are paying the price for it.

Look at what we have produced. Many adults can barely read and write. Many never read books or magazines to keep abreast of changes in the world. Many have never learned skills or training in any job. Over 75 percent of our youth have no desire to improve themselves. They are imprisoned in their minds to a small island forgetting that the CNMI has become a part of the world of nations. Is it any wonder that we are in the situation we are in now? Take a look at the facts below and let's ask ourselves when are we going to wise up?

This past June 2008, 800 seniors graduated from high school. Out of 800, only about 200 decided to go to an institution of higher learning whether it is NMC or a college somewhere else. This represents only 25 percent of the young minds. The mainland average for students going to college is 63 percent.

What will happen to the other 600 students or 75 percent at the age of 17 to 18 years of age? Do they have any skills to find good jobs? Or will they just drift and become a burden on society? What will their children be like?

Consider the previous year 2007, another 800 graduated and only 200 went to college. But 600 youths are still walking the streets with no direction and little education. Then in 2006, another 800 graduated and again only 200 went to college. Where are the previous 1,200 plus this year's 600 for a total of 1,800 barely educated students? Are they working? Are they on food stamps because they have no skills to offer? What are they doing to earn a living? Are these young people an asset or a liability to the community?

Let's add up the total number of 200 X three years equals 600 students in the process of getting an advanced education or 25 percent of graduates. But 600 X three years equals 1,800 students who are barely educated or 75 percent who did not go to college. They remain mostly unemployed young people with little guidance or direction in their lives

If we keep going back several more years, the number of uneducated citizens rises. We can only conclude that the majority of our citizens are poorly educated and unskilled. I haven't counted in hundreds of students who have dropped out of school before graduation.

What does this say about the future of the CNMI? What does it say about our school system? What does it say about parents and the responsibility in guiding their children? What does it say about our community? Why has this sad situation been happening? Instead of pointing fingers at who is responsible for the low level of education and unskilled workers, let us seek solutions to improve the situation and motivate young people to want to learn.

It has been shown that a child from the age of five to 18 years old spends at least 92 percent of his awakened time outside school. Therefore most of a child's education, 92 percent, begins and continues in the home and environment. Parents are the most influential teachers on a child's development. The child copies the type of relationship he sees between his father and mother and assumes that is the correct way for a married couple to live and raise children. We parents must examine the way we influence our children because they become carbon copies of our lives.

Let me relate an incident that happened recently in one of my companies. A newly young hired employee, 23 years old, was caught stealing company funds. Upon apprehension, he admitted it. When asked about his family life, he admitted he had no relationship with his father and little with his mother. At 17 years old he had dropped out of high school and had never worked a day in his life. This was his first real job in six years since dropping out of school! He is living with a young girl and has fathered three children. The youngest one is two weeks old and the oldest is four years old. What happened here? Who failed this young man? What future does he have? How many more are out there like him? Why can't we help them? They are us when we were young!

Please parents and community, wake up! What we sow so shall we reap. We owe it to our children to give our time and love. But we also must guide them to goals in life. We must invest in them and motivate them to want to want to succeed. We must insist that they do better than us.

Another area that should be carefully examined is our public school system. After spending millions of dollars yearly, are we really producing fairly well educated youth? What justification does

See WE HAVE on Next Page

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Let there be light

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Uncle Ben flipped Aggreko's switch and e-juice flowed through our island's lines uninterrupted for at least 24 hours. Presumably, smiles of satisfaction abounded in some administrative sectors though I do not think anyone was foolish enough to think that we had arrived at the culminating solution to a lingering complex problem. Nor was the euphoria to last. Within the next 24 hours, an outage would strike once more, and the stories about CUC's myriad contradictions—from benign neglect to conspiracies to destroy the institution in order to position interested parties at a competitive advantage to take over—flourished once more.

Our Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has been everyone's favorite whipping boy, and for good reason. It has a knack for being annoyingly indifferent to its unhelpful, and sometimes, downright criminal practices. Or, it appears like it had been set-up as an emergency response to a perceived public need once, only to be turned into a huge bucket that anyone with any knowledge on how to milk a corporate cow just merrily lined up and helped one's self along its vulnerable leaky spots. Island opportunism reigned unrestrained and unhappily, well coached by local and imported scam artists.

Five years ago, I brought my CUC bill to their Dandan office. My Chinese significant other then had set up the account when we rented an apartment unit at As Lito. Lo, and behold, our month's consumption of power was astronomical, to the tune of 46,000+ of Uncle Sam's dollars.

I walked into the cashier's office and though I hardly looked like your normal Han, sometimes folks from Hainan, Guangdong and Fujian do have an admixture of Indo-Malay strain in their bloodstream, so the finance officer did not bat an eye over my bill and the amount in it, nor did she wonder about the ethnic congruence between the customer in front of her and the name in the bill. Playing along, I explained that the garment industry was not doing too well and that I might not be able to pay for my electrical consumption for a while.

I suggested that I leave my credit card particulars so that CUC could automatically bill the account but that I would request for a second meter reading and make sure that my next bill would be accurate since the bill was for a residence that would take more than 29 years to consume the amount of power we were being charged.

Needless to say, it took more than six months to straighten out the record, which meant that CUC's books had a $46,000+ collectible in its assets' column that really was not there. Too bad, my ex and I did not have enough foresight to have taken the good credit rating the amount afforded us and applied for a CDA loan!

CUC's corporate structure, or the absence of any reasonably accountable one, is hardly an isolated case. The culture of unbridled looking-after-my-business-interest-sans-active-regulatory-supervision ethos reminiscent of the Wild, Wild West seemed to have accompanied CUC at the creation. Was it not only a year or so ago when someone was hauled to court for unauthorized connection to CUC's power source? Was it not a common practice before to have a legitimate metered connection to one line and nine others delivered through a jumper that bypassed proper measurements? Wasn't this a charge leveled against one of our law officers who allegedly looked the other way, or at worst, connived to "steal" power while counsel to a manufacturing concern?

I can recall connecting to Cable TV eight years ago, and in my naiveté, allowed neighbors to bring their splitters and connected themselves to my line, only to find out shortly thereafter that the practice was illegal and that the company had patrols to catch those who still continued what was allegedly a common practice from the inception of the service across the island. And being of Philippine descent, I was privy to conversations on where the expertise and experience came from that provided the technical know-how in the elaborate practice milking public utilities.

We are a community of concerned and caring people, who do not hesitate to assist a neighbor needing help, and we have taken strangers into our midst allowing even some of them to join our family lineage and genealogy. As I am oft to tell my sixth graders, they are relatively good kids with bad habits! So are we, by my experience. The culture of exclusion, which admittedly retains and has acquired resurgent strength locally, and now, nationally with the GOP making a strategic, and evidently popular turn to the dissatisfied and often disenfranchised Religious Right, is nevertheless, on the wane, and the instinct of inclusion is manifesting itself not only here but also abroad.

Consider the burst of the real estate bubble that many economists predicted as a cyclical occurrence and was about to explode. Well, it has. Not only has the residential mortgage fiasco shaken the foundations of this nation's Wall Street, but also by the nature of the beast, it has caused a hailstorm across the stock markets of the world. Bail-out as a national strategy by Uncle Sam is no longer enough; a plan to deal with the global economy is no longer a matter of goodwill but of survival. The World Bank, the International Monetary Board, the Asian Development Bank, and all other regional development instrumentalities will now have to gear up to a new reality of hard-headed cooperation and authentic collaboration beyond the good-old-boy network of Wharton school-educated executives who have cornered the perks and privileges of being the official bean counters for global assets.

To be sure. the boundaries of greed by the privileged guardians of trade and commerce, and the weak-kneed default of public regulatory bodies, along with the culture of avarice ingrained in every aspiring business school entrant in our prestigious universities, and the uninformed compliant involvement if not mercenary connivance of labor to manipulative management, is not only true at the global and national level, but prevalent at the local level as well.

That is why the high symbolism of the Wednesday rally at the Gualo Rai fishermen's wharf of those who donned black clothes while lighting a candle, was not so much a protest over our prevailing situation as it was an affirmation that it is better to light a candle than curse the darkness. It was a loud though soundless scream to our public officials that there is nothing testicularly demeaning about asking our fellow citizens in the federal government to extend assistance in a time of emergent need.

It should also come as a wake-up call to our local decision-making process facilitators that the issue at hand, in the long term, involves the basic protection, conservation and preservation of our natural capital as the basis of our economy, and in that context, opportunism over the visitors' industries Yen, Won, and Yuan, and the Guam military budget (this is actually coerced Yen from put-upon but hardly complaining Nippon colleagues!) cannot be viewed as simply making a quick buck while the bank account lasts. The ecological reality must now be a measure to determine local policies and to educate residents of civic responsibility and citizens' rights. If we can invest corporations with a personal identity with accompanying rights, perhaps, it is time to draw up the list of the planet's rights so that we treat Mother Nature as a personality rather than just a compliant pit for our mining extractions, regardless of how debase we exploit her generous offerings. The shortsighted objections, and the evidently self-serving opposition of interested parties, over the proposal to declare the Marianas Marine Historic Monument is astounding. As many have already declared, this proposal is a no-brainer. That issues of sovereignty and local autonomy would now suddenly confuse and baffle the rhetoric of such agencies as the Coastal Resource Management and the Department of Natural Resources reflects the insidious effect of partisan and archaic imperial/colonial politics in public affairs. I wonder how many people worried about proprietary rights and procedures when the nation declared the Grand Canyon as a protected national heritage?

Let there be light! Indeed. Plato's allegory of the cave that explained his claim that humankind only sees appearances and hears echoes remains pertinent to our continuing dependence on illusions and spins. A turn to radical honesty and authentic accountability is not a novel suggestion. Following through with it would be. Particularly in the Marianas!

Our community is small enough that a Cantonization of political discourse is a technical possibility towards real participatory democracy. Civil discourse and the art of association could very well accompany our beach barbecues, R360 dining experiences, family gatherings and colleagial gatherings. If Uncle Ben can help switch on that process by practicing openness and forthrightness within his government's administrative and legislative ranks, then the force of darkness will not prevail.

Meanwhile, we shall light the candle. Let the darkness curse its own self.

CUC's corporate structure, or the absence of any reasonably accountable one, is hardly an isolated case. The culture of unbridled looking-after-my-business-interest-sans-active-regulatory-supervision ethos reminiscent of the Wild, Wild West seemed to have accompanied CUC at the creation. Was it not only a year or so ago when someone was hauled to court for unauthorized connection to CUC's power source? Was it not a common practice before to have a legitimate metered connection to one line and nine others delivered through a jumper that bypassed proper measurements? Wasn't this a charge leveled against one of our law officers who allegedly looked the other way, or at worst, connived to "steal" power while counsel to a manufacturing concern?

WE HAVE

From Page 10

the school system have for not producing better educated youth? Shouldn't the school system really take a closer look at the techniques it is using and accept changes in education. Basically it is still teaching as it did over 80 years ago. Think about why we can't educate our youth better? Is it the students fault? Is it our fault? Is it the usual excuse—lack of money? What is it that prevents us? Could it be that we really don't care?

We are the community and must demand better results from the school system. We must find ways to teach our slower children better. Any child who desires to drop out of school should be strongly discouraged from doing so and highly motivated to continue his schooling. Extra facilities must be created to accommodate the slower students. Lack of money must not be the cop-out.

In the Northern Marianas Trades Institute recently started, I discovered that 17 students out of 36 do not have a high school diploma. It is gratifying to see these students seeking a second chance to learn. With the proper guidance they will become skillful and educated members of our community.

Repeatedly I have mentioned that a nation is only as successful as its educated and trained citizens. We have great potential manpower but we are not developing it. When will we wake up? We must realize that it is our personal problem. When will we realize that an uneducated population is a drain on the nation? When will we start to make the necessary changes? We must seek solutions. If we do not implement changes to improve, how can we perpetuate our culture and increase our chances for prosperity? How low will we descend until we wake up and find ourselves aliens and poor in our own land?

It is not too late. Improvement begins with a first step coupled with clear goals supported by a strong desire to change. Let's begin correcting one of our most crucial problems. We must better educate our youth and ourselves. We must guide them in wanting to seek a higher education and to learn a skill. Stop the abuse of our young people's future. A wasted mind is a sin. Only education will make us free! Only education will make us whole again!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

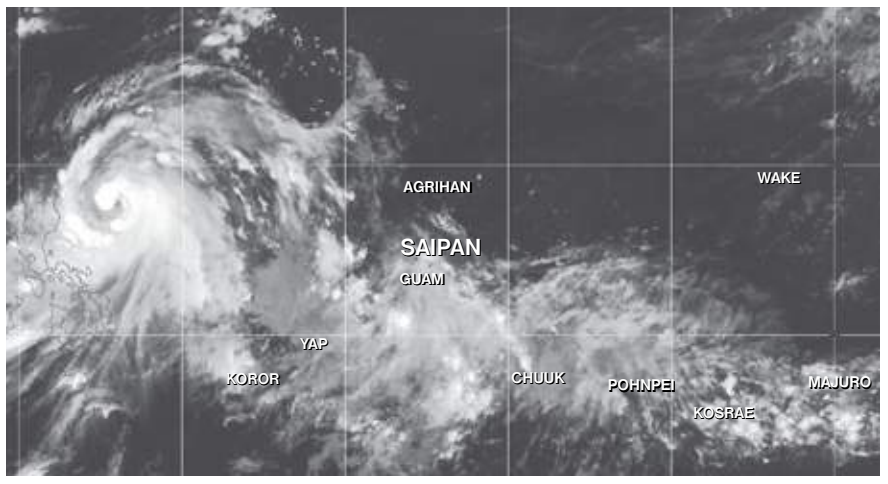
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Palau	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲87	▼72
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88	▼74
Majuro	Cloudy	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲64	▼55
Beijing	Cloudy	▲86	▼57
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲90	▼80
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼74
London	Cloudy	▲64	▼50
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲78	▼60
Manila	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲59	▼43
Miami	Cloudy	▲88	▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼54
Osaka	Cloudy	▲82	▼65
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼49
Pusan	Rain	▲83	▼66
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲71	▼62
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼44
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲69	▼52
Seoul	Cloudy	▲81	▼65
Tokyo	Rain	▲76	▼67
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲76	▼57

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Hagupit (18W) is centered east of the Phillipines at 16N126E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with Hagupit are found west of 133E between 10N and 22N. For more detailed information on Tropical Storm Hagupit, refer to warnings issued by JTWC under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. A monsoonal surface trough extends eastward from Tropical Storm Hagupit through 14N130E to 9N140E near Yap to 7N150E south of Chuuk and ends south of Pohnpei near 7N158E. Areas of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms lie along and within 100 miles north and south of this trough axis with the strongest areas located just east of Yap near 142E and also just west of Chuuk near 148E. A north-south orientated trough of low pressure passing through the Marianas has helped create an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across the island chain from 11N to 18N between 142E and 147E. The trough axis extends from the monsoon trough discussed above near 9N147E to a point west of the CNMI near 18N143E east of Pohnpei. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from 4N to 9N between 158E to 180. This includes the regions around Pohnpei, Kosrae and most of the Marshalls south of 9N.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
6:56AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
2:47PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
7:23PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
11:53PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06AM	6:13 PM
Tuesday	6:06AM	6:12 PM
Wednesday	6:06AM	6:12 PM
Thursday	6:06AM	6:11 PM
Friday	6:06AM	6:10 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		12:35PM
Tuesday	12:00AM	1:34PM
Wednesday	1:04AM	2:27PM
Thursday	2:05AM	3:15PM
Friday	3:04AM	3:59PM

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 892	11:45am	8:25pm+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 9695 • Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

NOTICE OF HEARINGS PENDING DENIAL APPEALS

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Please bring any documentation necessary to resolve the issues that led to the denial of your permit application. If you fail to appear or fail to bring required documentation, the appeal may be dismissed and an administrative order may be entered against you. Any employee who intends to request permission to transfer to a new employer must appear at the hearing to make that request; failure to appear may result in immediate denial of transfer relief.

ANY EMPLOYER WHOSE DENIAL AROSE FROM A FAILURE TO SUBMIT DOCUMENTATION, AND WHOSE DOCUMENTATION IS NOW COMPLETE, MAY REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF LABOR AND HAVE THE DENIAL REMOVED. ANY EMPLOYER WHOSE DENIAL IS REMOVED NEED NOT APPEAR AT THE HEARING.

ANY EMPLOYEE WHO NO LONGER WISHES TO PURSUE EMPLOYMENT WITH THE EMPLOYER LISTED BELOW, AND WISHES TO RE-REGISTER FOR TRANSFER TO ANOTHER EMPLOYER, MAY REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF LABOR AND HAVE THE DENIAL REMOVED. ANY EMPLOYEE WHOSE DENIAL IS REMOVED NEED NOT APPEAR AT THE HEARING AND MAY REGISTER WITH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR TRANSFER.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
DC 08-930	Youn, Hongbog	99 Cents Supermart Inc.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-820	Panganiban, Randy M.	99 Cents Supermart Inc.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-870	Kim, Min Jung	A & K Development Co.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-925	Li, Yafan Fan	Agulto, Frank C.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-777	Naulgan, Doming P.	Aldan, Messalina Dlg.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-822A	Uddin, Jashim	Ali, Md Aykub	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-942	Millare, Romill J.	Alt International Corporation	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-900	Jin, Honghua	American Global Voice (Saipan) Ltd.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-899	Chen, Guangri	American Global Voice (Saipan) Ltd.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-898	Che, Shenghua	American Global Voice (Saipan) Ltd.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-897	Ai, Fanglin	American Global Voice (Saipan) Ltd.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-841A	Xu, Chunmei	Amy Int'l. Corporation	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-928	Liu, Liyan	Amy Int'l. Corporation	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-927	Li, Yunzhi	Amy Int'l. Corporation	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-920	Quizon, Eden M.	Angel's Int'l. Corporation	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-835	Santos, Angelito B.	Angel's Int'l. School of Dance Inc.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-863	Cruz, Josephine L.	Asiatico, Danilo E.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-847	Clavecillas, Erwin C.	Atalig, Felipe Q.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-802	Francisco, Veneranda T.	Atalig, Isabel T.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-769	Ostonal, Marvin F.	Auntie Mags Food Catering Serv. Inc.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-757	Piao, Meihua	B. C. Corporation	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-892	Doronila, Rasty M.	Babauta, Susana C.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-811B	Calage, Erwin S.	Baka, Cheryl	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-868	Montezor, Ricardo DL.	Baltazar, Luisito A.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-823	Wang, Bao Zhong	Blue Ocean Co., Ltd.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-922	Widada, Suyatna	Boyer, Garbriel F.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-923	Dimaun, Oliver S.	Boyer, Garbriel F.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-884	Chung, Seok Hwa	C & C Corporation	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-783	Choi, Seong In	C.S.I. Saipan Corporation	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-800	Gao, Lei	C.Y.H. Corporation	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-921	Cawaling, Gina E.	Cabrera, Corazon C.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-850	Del Peralta, Jaime	Cabrera, James	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-396	Demegillo, Ruther T.	Cabrera, Rosalie	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-779	Hibi, Marcianita S.	Camacho, Anita A.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-886	Benitez, Hector S.	Camacho, Antonio S.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-841	Biteranta, Analee F.	Camacho, Barbara Jean C.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-895	Carino, Lilia V.	Camacho, Lourdes P.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-759	Bello, Dante V.	Camacho, Oscar B.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-915	Cai, Nansheng	Castro, Augustin T.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-842	Paga, Alex D.	Castro, Candido I.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-767	Yang, Tao	Castro, Xiao Mei Feng	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-926	Francisco, Ma. Corazon D.	Celis, Felipe T.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-941	Raut, Shyam K.	Concepcion, Ignacio S.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-816	Andal, Pedro M.	Cruz, Bernardo R.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-776	Anis, Margarit Rose S.	Cruz, Justo R.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-829	De Vera, Alicia E.	Crystal Seas-CNMI, Inc.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-862	Shao, Chunjun	D & H Corporation	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-791	Lu, Qinghe	De Chang Inc. Ltd.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-774	Bongato, Jr., Sonny F.	Dela Cruz, Eloy	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-825	Angodage, Lenard Joseph P.	Develop Ideas Corporation	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-911	Mendoza, Merry Cres G.	Diaz, Jose Deleon Guerrero	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-916	Wu, Xiujuan	DLR Kaainoa Sheldon James	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-819	Zhang, Hongyu	Dong Guk Corporation	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-874	Ma, Delin	Double Lee Corporation	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-873	Li, Boshui	Double Lee Corporation	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-902	Wu, Shaoyong	EC Entertainment & Promotional, Inc.	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-773	Yang, Huan	Edejer, Mr. & Mrs. Edgardo	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-894	Santos, Enrico L.	EQ Construction Corporation	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-888	Cabanas, Roberta T.	EQ Construction Corporation	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-840	Balgoa, Arnel P.	EQ Construction Corporation	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-827	Edangal, Genalyn E.	Espinosa, Grace Joy E.	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-933	Jiao, Minghui	Etpison, Joe Jin	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-945	Rance, Leandro G.	Fejeran, Benigno T.	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-799	Castillo, Anselmo D.	Fuji Pacific Inc.	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-815A	Olita, Ermelanda B.	Gacayan, Juan A.	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-865	He, Jinlian	Gintian Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-762	Li, Shoukui	Globe Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-750	Guo, Qiongying	Great Wall Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-788	Caras, Edgar A.	GTS Security Inc.	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-385	Jin, Mingguang	Guo, Hong Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-919	Kang, Nea Soon	Hadi Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-861	Olfindo, Norman D.	Hans Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-878	Zheng, Jian Qiang	He Qi Li Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-889	Han, Dong Sup	HMJ Co. Ltd.	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-910	Barrozo, Cesar A.	Hofschneider, Felix S.	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-856	Reyles, Anita T.	Hua Xing Saipan Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-810	Nicolas, Alfredo E.	Huang, Jiashen	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-852	Bayas, Delia	Ignacio, Marie Antonette J.	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-821	Habijuddin, Racquel M.	In Deok Lee	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-848	Badilla, Sabino Jr. C.	Island Best Choice	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-845	Jin, Huashu	J. Goldsky Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-775	Park, Jin Woo	Jin Seo Co., Ltd.	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-893	Yang, Ya Kui	Jones, Hongxia Shao	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-869	Abogho, Othelia D.	Joon Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-836	Mangiliman, Harold E.	JOS Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-781	Aguilar, Reynaldo L.	Kinship Enterprises Inc.	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-790	Buenaventura, Ana Linda B.	Kintol, Daria M.	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-770	Shen, Hefan	L.C.K.G. Company Ltd.	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-778	Tolin, Lorezno O.	Larinay, Emmy F.	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-846	Nuqui, Florentino S.	Leche Tents	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-901	Quinto, Primitivo D.	Life, Inc.	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
DC 08-879	Zheng, Shaorong	Long Feng Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-862	Lee, Young	LT Tour Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-867	Asuncion, Danilo T.	Lucky Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-896	Alegre, Romualdo A.	Marquez, Nenita V.	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-830	Soriano, Carmelita M.	Marquez, Perla A.	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-813	Ni, Weixin	Mei Art Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-780	Jucutan, Joselyn M.	Mendiola, Elizabeth M.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-885	Tibig, Felicidad V.	Micronesia Woodcraft Ent. Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-912	Mateo, Virgilio F.	Mir Mohammad Zubair Ansary	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-346	Rago, Franklin A.	Mirano, Earl E. C.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-345	Corpuz, Rusell R.	Mirano, Earl E. C.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-344	Cobacha, Joselito	Mirano, Earl E. C.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-347	Chua, Leonedes C.	Mirano, Earl E. C.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-342	Bechayda, Arnulfo B.	Mirano, Earl E. C.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-931	Hernandez, Marlon D.L.	Misamis Construction Spn. Ltd.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-789	Benamira, Narciso D.	Misamis Construction Spn. Ltd.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-786	Shen, Ming Hua	Modern General Corporation	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-858	Borito, Alan A.	Most Delbert	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-796	Capangpangan, Ellen B.	MRS3 Corporation	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-875	Du, Yicheng	New Dragon Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-784	Francisco, Romeo L.	New Seoul Incorporation	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-768	Li, Guishun	Nimwes, Rosanna/ Jim	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-758	Miranda, Pilar D.	Noah Saipan Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-876	Verunque, Remegio R.	Northpac Corporation	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-877	Garcia, Reynaldo Mayson P.	Northpac Corporation	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-880	Clamaan, Ihrme Epitacio B.	Orbino, Magdalena F.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-940	Manalili, Elmer G.	Ortizo, Nero S.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-761	Cui, Qingyu	Pacific Sun Lines Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-806	Dela Pena, Joan D. C.	Palacios, Jenniffer F.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-906	Sun, Ronglan	Palm Springs Life Extension, Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-905	Ben, Ke Lan	Palm Springs Life Extension, Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-892	Conge, Joy P.	Pangelinan, Mariano	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-809	Esconde, Ramonito O.	Piteg, Lucia A.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-797	Lazatin, Anita B.	Premiere Alliance Corporation	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-890	Viray, Ciriaco M.	R & S Enterprises, Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-826	Atienza, Renato L.	Rabbi Services, Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-772	Soriano, Pedro N.	Reliable Services (Marianas) Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-891	Alcaraz, Albert G.	Reyes, Consuelo M.	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-935	Sangalang, Edna A.	RGC Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-812	Abao, Evelyn B.	Richz Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-918	Albelar, Nelson M.	Romolor, Raymon S.	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-787	Turlao, Rodolfo F.	Rong Kun Xiao	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-749	Chen, Ruitong	Rui Jin Trading Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-802	Esteban, Haydee A.	Sablan, Grace C.	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-755	Kim, Hyung Jin	Sae Woun Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-849	Ancheta, Antonio Q.	Saipan Hotel Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-834	Quipid, Romeo M.	Saipan World Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-815B	Mailig, Danilo R.	Salas, Joseph S.	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-908	Nimura, Takashi	Samy Boat, Inc.	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-857	Santos, Maripaz I.	Santos, Mark Arnold L.	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-844	Zhu, Zhi Hong	Se Hoon Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-843	Jiang, Kun	Se Hoon Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-907	Sagucio, Oscar O.	Seishin Farm Saipan Inc.	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-782	Naulgan, Clayton A.	Seman, Enrique K.	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-946	Feng, Quan Min	Shun Yi American Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-804	Tangi, Honofre L.	Silvestre, Ruben	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-808	Inalvez, Tarcela P.	Silvestre, Ruben T.	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-828	Dulay, Priscila P.	Silvestre, Ruben T.	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-832	Zhang, Jieyong	Sinorain Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-831	Hou, Na	Sinorain Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-917	Jin, Zi	Sky Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-751	Kim, Jae Jung	Sky Int'l. Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-924	Bhuiyan, Khairul H.	Soleman	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-934	An, Minghua	Soo Jee Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-833	Balensosa, Rogelio C.	Stoltenberg, Leticia R.	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-872	Song, Guanghao	Sunrise Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-756	Li, Mingyu	Tae Ho Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-811A	Echepare, Jesus V.	Tano Group Inc.	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-932	Teuira, Jacob M.	Te Ivi Maori Inc.	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-824	Chua, Oscar G.	Tenorio, Elizabeth K.	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-871	Cataluna, Leoncia F.	Teregeyo, Roselle C.	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-822B	Pabalan, Ruby L.	Teregeyo, Vicenta C.	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-855	Vicente, Roderico C.	That Saipan Girl, LLC	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-818	Lee, Haet N.	The Flair Co. Ltd.	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-914	Versoza, Biovanni C.	Tri Enterprise, Inc.	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-913	Reyes, Marcela T.	Tri Enterprise, Inc.	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-854	Ota, Nobuyuki	Underwater Adventures, LLC	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-853	Noguchi, Takahiro	Underwater Adventures, LLC	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-938	Sta. Maria, Diony T.	Verde Navi Saipan, Inc.	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-929	Zhou, Yun	Vergara, Jaime R.	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-814	Genobaten, Ana Marie O.	Viray, Clarito C.	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-760	Feng, Lei	WACL Corporation	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-785	Luo, Cheng	Wang Health Cult & Sp. Corporation	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-851	Zhao, Ying	Xin Jie Corporation	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-839	Liu, Yan Bing	Yan Hua Corporation	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-939	Lin, Kaiqi	Yin Jia Corporation	Oct. 10, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-817	Asuncion, Marivic M.	Young Dong Enterprises, Inc.	Oct. 10, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-807	Aronce, Vicente T.	Young Dong Enterprises, Inc.	Oct. 10, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-805	Thosa, Kiriyaporn	Younis Art Studio, Inc.	Oct. 10, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-866	Calage, Oscar S.	Zietzke, Courtney L.	Oct. 10, 2008	1:00 pm

Purpose in life

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
Editor

Okay, here's a bit of useless personal info: Remember that Mel Gibson character in *Conspiracy Theory* where he always buys a copy of *Catcher in the Rye*? He already has hundreds of copies of the book but he must always have one more, like Linus in *Peanuts* who must always have his blanket. For me, it was *Strunk and White's Elements of Style*, my first copy found in a bin of used books for sale way back in high school. I must have gone through 15 copies already of what Strunk wryly called his "little book." Some were lost; others were borrowed and never returned, while most were given away. The latest copy sits on a bookshelf in an apartment in FinaSisu, under lock, bolt, and a six-digit password.

Another useless bit of info: My iPod has about 3,895 songs in it but only three podcasts: the funny and informative *Car Talk* from NPR, the *HESS Mandarin Chinese Survival Guide*, which comes in handy when ordering Chinese takeout, and *Grammar Girl's Quick and Dirty Tips for Better Writing*.

As can be gleaned from these trivia, I belong to a tribe of slightly unstable fellows, always armed with imaginary erasers, whiteout liquids, blue pencils, and highlighters, obsessing over inaccuracies in grammar and style and mentally correcting each and every indignity heaped upon the English language. Of course you wouldn't see that in my writing. I once received a couple of hate mails, telling me that my writing sucks. You won't get any argument from me there. That's because I'm cut out to be more of a copy editor than a writer. I love good writing and a well-written article is always a delight to read but even more amusing is finding those small mistakes that fall through the cracks, missed by the eagle eyes of editors and proofreaders. You know how it is when you unexpectedly find money in a pair of jeans that's just fresh from the laundry? Finding a misspelling or an incorrect verb tense feels exactly the same way, an "Aha!" moment that floods the pleasure sensors of the brain with dopamine and sets the synapses firing simultaneously, like cascading mental fireworks. The rush is even more intense when the book or article is from a prestigious publication, like *The New York Times*, which is so rigorous in its editing and proofreading that it is nearly impossible to get one over its editors. I said nearly because it does occur from time to time. And when that happens, a party goes off in my brain!

It's not as if we're trying to prove a point, that we're more intelligent or any degree more perspicacious than the other guys. We're just built that way. (Okay, so we're perverts, but who isn't? The only ones who are absolutely certain about their sanity are the insane.) That's why I always make it a point to buy first editions of books because that's where errors abound. In the rush to beat publishing deadlines, mistakes inevitably manage to wiggle their way in, an unintended gift for me and my kind to find. I remember one time when I spotted a mistake in a first edition Harry Potter book; I don't remember now which one was it or which mistake it was but it suddenly felt like Mardi Gras, Christmas, and New Year's Day all rolled into one!

And it's not just books or newspapers. Movies are particularly prone to grammatical lapses and watching out for such moments is one more reason to go to the movies Friday nights. One recent example comes to mind: In a scene from *Iron Man* showing the character Tony Stark on the front page of *Forbes* magazine, the subhead reads "Tony Stark takes reigns at 21," signifying his takeover of the his father's company. According to www.wsu.edu, a king or queen reigns, but you rein in a horse. The expression "to give rein" means to give in to an impulse as a spirited horse gives in to its impulse to gallop when you slacken the reins. Similarly, the correct expression is "free rein," not "free reign." Thus, the subhead should have read "Tony Stark takes reins at 21" or, alternatively, "Tony Stark reigns."

That's not to claim that this paper doesn't have its share of mistakes because we certainly have bushels of them. With nearly a hundred articles to read, edit, correct, and proofread at any given day, the eyes begin to glaze by 7pm and you just want to get the paper to bed by deadline time. (Infuriatingly enough, the mistakes are quite easy to spot the next day, alight with malice and gleefully jumping out of the paper to ruin the morning.) A recent for-instance involved an ad for a local fundraising tournament, with the prizes enumerated using ordinal numbers. However, instead of saying 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes, it listed them as 1st, 2st, and 3st. Seconst? Thirst? Oh, dear.

It's not that we intentionally let these mistakes to slip through. There is a concerted effort to put out a good product that is as free of mistakes as possible because we owe it to our readers and the fifty cents they pay to read the paper. What we live for, though, are those moments when, after going through each article with a fine-toothed comb, we still come across those little imps of mischief the next day. Oh sure, no one's going to come up with a movie about our lives anytime soon. I've already made my peace with that. Let others have the soaring, life-affirming, and heroic adventures. Let them be the ones whose lives will be talked about, envied, and *written* about. *That's* where we come in. We will be at the other end, waiting, armed with our pencils and highlighters, putting in the corrections to other people's biographies and life stories. Purpose in life? Hah! Yes, we live to make you look good.

Letters to the Editor

Vision for energy self sufficiency

I attended the forum for the "Delegate To U.S. Congress" to find out what the candidates where saying to get my vote. What I learned was that few of them had a "Vision" other than ... How they were going to "pugei" the federal government for money! Not one of them presented a detailed plan as to how we were going to solve the electrical problems and cost for this electricity.

When I confronted a few of them on this issue all I was told was "that they were going to ask for financial help ..." "Financial help for what?" I asked. Give me details, what base load power source are they going to use? Only one, after a lot of pressure from me really said ... "Maybe nuclear?" But then he said "we need to ask the feds to do a study on what ways to go" Hmmmmmm.

You mean that no one here on this island has ever asked that, over these past 30 years? And if they have asked, why has nothing been done? People of the island... All the answers are out there and if we keep waiting for the federal government to do it for us ...

Our economy will be so far down in the hole that by the time government actually performs, we will be in the year 2100 and a Third World government! We have to attain energy independence and we have to start NOW! We have to stop talking and start doing!

Base load—That is what the island needs. What is base load? It is 24/7 electricity. Not just when the sun shines or the wind blows. Unfortunately our island does not have the resources to give us that 24/7 power without great costs of which we have no control over.

Or do we? Remote nuclear battery power is an approach but we will still be dependent on technology that we won't own. This approach won't be able to be installed on the island over night either. But at least it is a direction. It can produce power 24/7 until the battery runs dead and then a new battery bought every seven years. But that battery won't be FREE.

Mist Lift OTEC is also another approach and it can be done with technology that we can own. This approach, also, won't be able to be installed over night either. But with this approach we will NEVER have to pay someone else for FUEL. We already have it in our possession. We just have to go down and get it. This source of energy also will provide CLEAN drinking water too. Other than the two above-mentioned approaches there is diesel generation at $0.40 kwh of which $0.27 kwh is just for the fuel!

BioDiesel won't be all that much cheaper and we still won't OWN that source of fuel. Now comes the really hard part. How are we going to pay for OTEC or nuclear power plants? Write a lot of RFPs? Haven't we been doing just that and what has it brought in?

Many of the candidates were saying they want the federal government to provide this and that, but ... are any of us better off than we were 30 years ago on this island? This is what happens when people get used to handouts. We have to solve our own problems right here at home and stop waiting for government to do it for us!

An island of this size has, it seems, more red tape than our federal government. Where did we learn that from? Here is an approach to getting base load power on this island and not costing us a penny up front. Let us agree to pay a flat rate for this renewable power for a period of, say, 15 years. Let's put that rate at $0.12 kwh, or lower. This is less than half of what diesel fuel costs at $4.00/gal which is $0.27 kwh. Put this on a BIG sign, so everyone will see it. We will be beating the energy suppliers away with a stick because there is lots of profit in there for them.

We will of course have the power to select which power source we want on this island! It has to be clean energy and simple to operate. At first we will keep the amount of base load low, at first to see if their power source can deliver what it says it can. For example five or 10 Mw. Remember our island base load power needs are right now at a minimum of 40 Mw. But if this new and clean source of energy does meet expectations then we will enlarge our commitment to it at possibly a lower rate, thus finally freeing the island from ever needing to buy fuel ever again.

Now this is a vision and a plan with a time scale to it. First we need to pugi the feds to subsidize our diesel fuel cost to keep electrical cost down until we get this new power source up and running. This can be done in as short as six years if we really put our backs into it. Once the renewable power base load is installed we can stop the subsidy and be energy independent. What a beautiful vision this is. Our economy will improve and businesses will come to the islands and jobs will be created and our kids will have a place to live and provide for the next generation. So let us put the person into office that has a vision with details!

Brian Horst
Via email

A fundamental right

Freedom of expression is one of the most cherished and fundamental rights in our democratic form of government. I adamantly object and reject any attempt by anyone to restrict what I can write or say in the newspaper or anywhere else, particularly on public issues and including the support and/or opposition to any candidate for the position of Delegate to the U.S. Congress.

No candidate—no voter—no person in the Commonwealth should allow anyone to dictate when, where, and what may be said or written on public issues.

Jeanne Rayphand
San Vicente

The people gathered as one

Though the evening was overcast as the people gathered at the Garapan fishing base this past Wednesday, the mood was festive and alive. There was optimism in the air as we united to create a momentum to let the government, the Legislature, and CUC know that "enough was enough." The government must openly and honestly serve the people, and CUC must operate effectively to provide basic services on a timely and consistent basis.

There was a wide spectrum of people: men, women and children; the young and the old; the local indigenous, other Pacific islanders, mainlanders, and a wide array of foreign national contract workers. There were easily 500 to 1,000 in attendance, and no doubt many more than who were there in spirit; unable to attend due to work, family commitments, or a lack of transportation.

A wide range of speakers took the microphone and expressed their frustrations and financial losses due to the shoddy and inconsistent provision of power by CUC. Sleepless nights, damaged appliances, spoiled food, loss of income, and even days without water and sanitation were highlighted by the comments presented that night.

A petition calling for federal emergency relief, court-appointed receivership of CUC, and audits and investigations of all federal and local funds received and expended by CUC over the past 10 years was signed by over 400 people. And I am told that about one third of the signatures were of the local indigenous people.

I noticed that after the program concluded many people remained near the stage. It appeared that they wanted more, that they "meant business" and would only be satisfied by continuing the momentum built up that night. It appears that this gathering of the people was only the beginning. The time is now to join in the efforts to seek a solution to ineffective government and abysmal results of the CUC.

As I walked to my vehicle and drove home it dawned on me that all of us need to make real efforts to be a part of the solution to our dire problems. And I am thinking that we can make a significant impact if we all contact our representatives and let them know of our concerns and suggest real, practical solutions that they can go to work on. Phone them, email them and physically meet with them; and look them in the eyes and tell them what we want. They represent us and their job is to carry out our will. They were elected to serve the people.

Let there be light. Power to the people.

Perry Conner
As Matuis

Business

Bush team, Congress negotiate $700B bailout

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Bush administration asked Congress on Saturday for the power to buy $700 billion in toxic assets clogging the financial system and threatening the economy as negotiations began on the largest bailout since the Great Depression.

The rescue plan would give Washington broad authority to purchase bad mortgage-related assets from U.S. financial institutions for the next two years. It does not specify which institutions qualify or what, if anything, the government would get in return for the unprecedented infusion.

Democrats are pressing to require that the plan help more strapped borrowers stay in their homes and to condition the bailout on new limits on executive compensation.

Congressional aides and administration officials are working through the weekend to fill in the details of the proposal. The White House hoped for a deal with Congress by the time markets opened Monday; top lawmakers say they would push to enact the plan as early as the coming week.

"We're going to work with Congress to get a bill done quickly," President Bush said at the White House. Without discussing specifics, he said, "This is a big package because it was a big problem."

The proposal is a mere three pages long, but it gives sweeping powers to the government to dispense gigantic sums of taxpayer dollars in a program that would be sheltered from court review.

"It's a rather brief bill with a lot of money," said Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., the Banking Committee chairman. "We understand the importance of the anticipation in the markets, but we also know that what we're doing is going to have consequences for decades to come. There's not a second act to this - we've got to get this right."

Lawmakers digesting the eye-popping cost and searching for specifics voiced concerns that the proposal offers no help for struggling homeowners or safeguards for taxpayers' money.

The government must stabilize the financial system "because if we don't, it will have a tremendous impact on American consumers, homeowners, taxpayers and the rest," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said in San Francisco.

But, she added, "We cannot deal with this unless this bailout helps families stay in their homes."

AP

Tuyba Wahla, 17, a senior at Elk Grove High School, checks the news on the stock market during her morning economics class in Elk Grove, Calif., on Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008

Economists see financial bailout as necessary

WASHINGTON (AP)—The economy could suffer a massive hangover from the government's efforts to rescue the financial system in the form of a soaring debt burden. But the alternatives look infinitely worse.

The $700 billion the administration is seeking from Congress as the upper bounds of what it will need to take a mountain of bad loans off the books of financial firms is certainly an eye-popping figure.

To get the funds to buy up the bad mortgage loans that have threatened to bring the financial system to its knees, the government will have to borrow. And that borrowing will come at a time when the federal budget deficit is already soaring.

The deficit for this budget year, which ends on Sept. 30, is expected to rise to $407 billion, a figure that is more than double the $161.5 billion imbalance for 2007, reflecting what the economic slowdown and this year's $168 billion economic stimulus program are already doing to the government's books.

The Bush administration is estimating that the deficit for the budget year that begins Oct. 1, which will cover the new president's first year in office, will hit $482 billion, a record in dollar terms.

And that forecast doesn't include the $200 billion the administration committed to spending two weeks ago when it took over the nation's two biggest mortgage companies, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

And it doesn't have any of the $700 billion the administration is seeking to soak up the bad mortgage-backed securities that have been at the heart of the severe credit crisis the country has been struggling with since August 2007.

The legislation Congress passed this summer that gave the authority to rescue Fannie and Freddie boosted the limit on the national debt by $800 billion to $10.6 trillion. The legislation the administration is now seeking to authorize the financial system bailout, according to a draft obtained by The Associated Press, would boost that debt limit to $11.3 trillion, up another $700 billion.

It is the rapidly rising debt that is cause for concern. The government is already spending more than $400 billion a year just to pay interest on the national debt. The higher that debt goes, the higher the government's borrowing costs and the less it has to spend on other programs. Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama are both running for president, making campaign promises about what new programs they will implement once in office, promises that could be severely constrained by the costs of a financial bailout.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

$700B rescue plan may not save some troubled banks

NEW YORK (AP)—A sweeping government plan to buy up to $700 billion in bad mortgages may not be enough to save some banks, which experts say may be forced to absorb big losses if they sell their troubled assets. The proposal for the government to soak up the mortgage-backed securities would be the biggest bailout plan since the Great Depression, but experts say a critical issue will be how much it actually pays for the troubled assets. How the government might acquire banks' toxic debt is still being ironed out, but one approach suggested by Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson involves a process under which financial institutions would propose a price for their mortgage-backed securities and the government would choose the lowest bids. If banks sell at the proposed price—say 50 cents on the dollar—accounting rules would require firms to take the losses on their balance sheets before getting the damaged assets off their books. For weaker banks buffeted by the deepening credit crisis, the losses may hinder their ability to go out raise capital, make loans and ultimately stay afloat, according to industry experts.

Judge says Lehman can sell units to Barclays

NEW YORK (AP)—A bankruptcy judge decided early Saturday that Lehman Brothers can sell its investment banking and trading businesses to Barclays, the first major step to wind down the nation's fourth-largest investment bank. U.S. Bankruptcy Judge James Peck gave his decision in a courtroom packed with lawyers at the end of an eight-hour hearing that extended into the wee hours, capping a week of financial turmoil. The deal was said to be worth $1.75 billion earlier in the week but the value was in flux after lawyers announced changes to the terms on Friday. It may now be worth closer to $1.35 billion, which includes the $960 million price tag on Lehman's Midtown Manhattan office tower. Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. filed the biggest bankruptcy in U.S. history Monday, after Barclays PLC declined to buy the investment bank in its entirety. The British bank will take control of Lehman units that employ about 9,000 employees in the U.S. "Not only is the sale a good match economically, but it will save the jobs of thousands of employees," said Lehman lawyer Harvey Miller of Weil, Gotshal & Manges. Barclays took on a potential liability of $2.5 billion to be paid as severance, in case it decides not to keep certain Lehman employees beyond the guaranteed 90 days. But observers have said Barclays' main reason for acquiring Lehman is to get its people and presence in North America, making widespread layoffs less likely.

As fares and fees rise, passengers want service

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—On a recent rainy day at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, a suitcase bound for Colorado Springs, Colo., lay on the ground outside a terminal under a maze of American Airlines conveyor belts that ferry bags to and from nearby planes.

A field representative for the airline who was showing a reporter the long, circuitous route checked bags take put the suitcase on a belt where it was supposed to be. He said it likely fell off a belt or a baggage handler's vehicle. He didn't know how long it had been off its path.

The airlines have been imposing new fees, raising fares, reducing flights and, in some cases, cutting out free snacks in coach. But several big and small airlines alike have struggled relative to the industry in terms of baggage handling, on-time performance and other customer service metrics. An annual University of Michigan survey released in May found customers giving airlines the worst grades since 2001.

With the slow travel season now upon them, airlines face the dual challenges of increasing revenue to cover heavy fuel costs while also improving their product to give air travelers a return on their added investment.

"We realize that in order for us to regain that brand recognition and the customer loyalty that we used to own in the '80s and '90s, we ought to do something very dramatic and different," said Mark Mitchell, American's managing director of customer experience.

AP

In this Nov. 21, 2007 file photo, Blake Haley, left, is directed to the check-in counter by Carol David, a customer service agent with Southwest Airlines, at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport in Linthicum, Md. Southwest Airlines Co. led the industry in passenger satisfaction in the latest University of Michigan survey.

Delta Air Lines Inc.'s regional subsidiary Comair had the worst on-time performance in July among airlines surveyed by the Department of Transportation. From January through July, American Airlines' on-time arrival rate was the lowest among U.S. carriers, while UAL Corp.'s United Airlines' was second-lowest. Comair had the highest mishandled baggage rate in July, while the highest number of consumer complaints received by the DOT that month were about Delta. Comair's on-time performance from January through July ranked 17th out of 19 airlines, while Delta's ranked eighth.

The fourth-highest number of consumer complaints received by the DOT in July were about Tempe, Ariz.-based US Airways, which said in a Sept. 3 memo to employees that they would not be receiving a $50 bonus for the month because the airline's on-time performance did not place in the top three among the 10 largest U.S. carriers.

Executives blame weather, congestion in the Northeast and air traffic control issues for some of the problems, but they also acknowledge company specific problems. They say there have been improvements since the latest DOT figures were released.

Nation

Obama, McCain combine for record spending

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain together spent $94 million in August, a record spree mostly aimed at about a dozen states that will probably decide their historic presidential contest.

Their campaign finance reports, filed before Saturday's midnight deadline, show that more than half of their $3-million-a-day spending rate was devoted to advertising that became increasingly negative during the month.

Both men had their personal best fundraising months. Obama raised $65 million and McCain raised $47.5 million, their reports show. Obama ended the month with more than $77 million in the bank; McCain ended with $27 million.

Unlike Obama, McCain is accepting $84 million in public money for the remaining two months of the campaign. That means he can't keep his surplus cash and has turned it over to national and state Republican party committees that can assist him in the fall.

McCain's fundraising included more than $9 million raised in the three days after he announced his selection of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate on Aug. 29.

McCain spent about $23 million on advertising, his highest as he jockeyed for position against Obama in battleground states. Obama vastly outspent him - about $33 million - as he practically matched McCain's advertising in several key states and tried to expand his field to typically Republican-voting states such as Alaska and Georgia.

Obama has since pulled out of those two states, but has continued to have an ad presence in GOP-leaning states such as Montana and North Dakota. He and McCain are also competing in the previously Republican territory of Virginia and North Carolina.

McCain increased his staff spending, building up a payroll of nearly $1.2 million. He also spent more than $3 million on travel, at least twice as much as what he spent in July.

Obama, however, was ahead of him in those categories as well. Obama spent about $2.8 million on payroll, an increase over his July spending. He also spent nearly $4.9 million on travel.

Ike evacuees jump gun, sneak back onto island

GALVESTON, Texas (AP)—Rats, raw sewage and a no-excuses curfew await exiled residents who try to return to storm-wrecked Galveston Island when it reopens next week, officials warned Saturday, a week after Hurricane Ike came thundering ashore.

Ugly as the city's last week and immediate future may be, the grim predictions didn't seem to scare some of the 45,000 evacuated islanders from trying to get home, even though most of the island won't open back up until Wednesday.

Another miles-long traffic jam clogged the only highway into the city Saturday. Some ignored orders to turn around, while others resorted to deception to sneak past police guarding a roadblock.

David Culpepper met his brother Joe in Atlanta, put a phony magnetic sign on a truck to masquerade as contractors and drove down to help a third brother, Michael, who owns an antiques shop on Galveston.

Guards at the checkpoint waved Joe and David Culpepper right in.

"Not getting on this island was not an option," David Culpepper said. "We have a brother in need."

It could be weeks or more before basic services are restored in all areas. Authorities cautioned that residents could find drastically different conditions depending on how their property fared.

"We have people whose homes are totally and completely destroyed, all the way to the other end of the spectrum, to where your home is perfectly fine," city manager Steve LeBlanc said.

AP

David Culpepper, left, helps his brother Michael Culpepper remove flood damaged walls from his house in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike, in Galveston, Texas, Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008.

Judge orders Cheney to preserve records

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal judge on Saturday ordered Dick Cheney to preserve a wide range of the records from his time as vice president.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly is a setback for the Bush administration in its effort to promote a narrow definition of materials that must be safeguarded under by the Presidential Records Act.

The Bush administration's legal position "heightens the court's concern" that some records may not be preserved, said the judge.

A private group, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, is suing Cheney and the Executive Office of the President in an effort to ensure that no presidential records are destroyed or handled in a way that makes them unavailable to the public.

In a 22-page opinion, the judge revealed that in recent days, lawyers for the Bush administration balked at a proposed agreement between the two sides on how to proceed with the case.

Cheney and the other defendants in the case "were only willing to agree to a preservation order that tracked their narrowed interpretation" of the Presidential Records Act, wrote Kollar-Kotelly.

The administration, said the judge, wanted any court order on what records are at issue in the suit to cover only the office of the vice president, not Cheney or the other defendants in the lawsuit. The other defendants include the National Archives and the archivist of the United States.

In response to the ruling, Cheney spokesman James R. Hennigan said that "we will not have any comment on pending litigation."

The lawsuit stems from Cheney's position that his office is not part of the executive branch of government.

Poll: Racial misgivings of whites an Obama issue

WASHINGTON (AP)—Deep-seated racial misgivings could cost Barack Obama the White House if the election is close, according to an AP-Yahoo News poll that found one-third of white Democrats harbor negative views toward blacks - many calling them "lazy," "violent" or responsible for their own troubles.

The poll, conducted with Stanford University, suggests that the percentage of voters who may turn away from Obama because of his race could easily be larger than the final difference between the candidates in 2004 - about 2.5 percentage points.

Certainly, Republican John McCain has his own obstacles: He's an ally of an unpopular president and would be the nation's oldest first-term president. But Obama faces this: 40 percent of all white Americans hold at least a partly negative view toward blacks, and that includes many Democrats and independents.

More than a third of all white Democrats and independents - voters Obama can't win the White House without - agreed with at least one negative adjective about blacks, according to the survey, and they are significantly less likely to vote for Obama than those who don't have such views.

Such numbers are a harsh dose of reality in a campaign for the history books. Obama, the first black candidate with a serious shot at the presidency, accepted the Democratic nomination on the 45th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, a seminal moment for a nation that enshrined slavery in its Constitution.

"There are a lot fewer bigots than there were 50 years ago, but that doesn't mean there's only a few bigots," said Stanford political scientist Paul Sniderman who helped analyze the exhaustive survey.

The pollsters set out to determine why Obama is locked in a close race with McCain even as the political landscape seems to favor Democrats. President Bush's unpopularity, the Iraq war and a national sense of economic hard times cut against GOP candidates, as does that fact that Democratic voters outnumber Republicans.

The findings suggest that Obama's problem is close to home - among his fellow Democrats, particularly non-Hispanic white voters. Just seven in 10 people who call themselves Democrats support Obama, compared to the 85 percent of self-identified Republicans who back McCain.

The survey also focused on the racial attitudes of independent voters because they are likely to decide the election.

ACROSS THE NATION

Scientists monitor growing Lake Erie algae bloom

CLEVELAND (AP)—Giant floating fields of algae are back in strength this year on Lake Erie and scientists are trying to figure out why. The blooms of the pea-soup colored algae - so big they've been showing on satellite photos—are toxic to fish and small animals and irritating to humans. The lake once notorious for its pollution is cleaner than ever, yet the algae continues to thrive. "Algae is a big deal, especially the microcystis, what is often called the blue-green algae," said Tom Bridgeman, a professor of environmental science at the University of Toledo's Lake Erie Center. "It's not aesthetically pleasing when it gets on boats or rots on the shore, but it can also be a health hazard." Nine of 11 samples taken Sept. 3 from near West Sister Island, northeast of Toledo, were more toxic than guidelines set by the World Health Organization, said Geoffrey Horst, a Michigan State University graduate student who studies the algae. It won't kill people, but at minimum it's going to give swimmers a rash. Water utilities along Ohio's Lake Erie shore spend thousands of dollars a day to kill the thick algae and to treat the bad smells and bad tastes that the organism causes, officials said. But it's not going away.

Fla. Medicaid recipients want out of nursing homes

PLANT CITY, Fla. (AP)—Charles Todd Lee spent a lifetime going backstage at concerts, following politicians on the campaign trail and capturing iconic shots of everyone from Martin Luther King Jr. to Mick Jagger to Mickey Mantle. Today, he enjoys such freedom only in his dreams. The 67-year-old photographer has been confined to a nursing home for five years, the victim of a stroke that paralyzed his left side. And he's angry. "Most of the people come here to die, so you want to die," he said. "It is a prison. I can't escape it." Lee is among the Medicaid recipients across Florida challenging the nightmare of the old and disabled: to be forced from comfort and familiarity into a nursing home. They say the state is illegally forcing them to live in nursing homes when they should be able to live where they choose.

Arkansas compound raided in child porn case

FOUKE, Ark. (AP)—Federal authorities conducting a child-porn investigation raided the headquarters Saturday of a ministry run by a convicted tax evader once labeled by prosecutors as a polygamist who preys on girls and women. Social workers interviewed children who live at the Tony Alamo Christian Ministries complex, which critics call a cult, to find out whether they were abused. The two-year investigation involves a law that prohibits the transportation of children across state lines for criminal activity, said Tom Browne, who runs the FBI office in Little Rock. "Children living at the facility may have been sexually and physically abused," Browne said. The raid, conducted by state and federal authorities, started an hour before sunset at the complex in tiny Fouke, in southwestern Arkansas.

Asia

Suicide bomb guts Pakistan Marriott hotel; 42 dead

AP

People carry an injured person after a bomb explosion in Islamabad, Pakistan on Saturday, Sept 20, 2008. A truck bomb devastated the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, killing at least 40 people and wounding more than 100.

By STEPHEN GRAHAM and NAHAL TOOSI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomber detonated a dump truck packed with a ton of explosives outside the Marriott in Pakistan's capital Saturday, setting off a fiery blast that shattered the luxury hotel, killed at least 42 people and wounded hundreds, officials and witnesses said.

The targeting of the American hotel chain was one of the largest terrorist attacks ever in Pakistan and came at a time of growing anger in Pakistan over a wave of cross-border strikes on militant bases by U.S. forces in Afghanistan. At least one American was killed and several were wounded.

The five-story Marriott had been a favorite spot for foreigners as well as Pakistani politicians and business people to stay and socialize in Islamabad despite repeated militant attacks on it. The bomb went off close to 8 p.m., when four restaurants inside would have been packed with diners at the hour that Muslims break their daily fast during the holy month of Ramadan.

"I didn't understand what it was, but it was like the world is finished," said Mohammad Sultan, a hotel employee who was in the lobby when the bomb exploded.

After the attack, rescuers ferried a stream of bloodied bodies from the gutted structure and the fire was still burning more than six hours after the blast, which sent up a thick pall of smoke over the area.

The explosion left a vast crater some 30 feet deep in front of the building.

Investigators on Sunday combed the gaping hole for evidence and rescue teams searched the building room by room. But the temperatures remained high and fires were still being put out in some parts.

Officials said the main building could still collapse.

"The building's structure is dangerous," said Malik Ashraf Awan, a senior civil defense officer. "It consumed too much heat and shock."

Bomb a warning to end Pakistan-US cooperation

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—The brazen truck-bombing of the Marriott hotel in Islamabad Saturday is a warning from Islamic militants to Pakistan's new civilian leadership that it should end already-strained cooperation with the United States to pursue al-Qaida and the Taliban, analysts said.

The massive bomb targeting an American hotel chain killed at least 40 people and wounded hundreds, setting a fire that blazed for hours and gutted most of the five-story luxury hotel. "The attack on the hotel is a message to the Pakistani leadership: End all cooperation with the Americans or pay the price," said Brian Glyn Williams, associate professor of Islamic history at the University of Massachusetts. "Both sides see Pakistan as a vital battlefield in their global struggle and clearly Pakistani civilians are paying the price for being in the middle of this struggle," he told The Associated Press.

The U.S. has angered Pakistanis with increasing cross-border raids by its forces from Afghanistan to root out Islamic militants entrenched in the lawless and rugged tribal regions along the border.

Local newspapers are filled with outrage from columnists who accuse the United States of treating Pakistan as a surrogate, flaunting its sovereignty and killing innocents. Civilian casualties from the U.S. assaults have prompted tribesmen in the volatile frontier to threaten revolt.

Williams said the country's new leaders are caught between pressure from the U.S. to crack down on the militants and al-Qaida demands that they cut all ties with America.

China seeks public trust amid milk scandal

BEIJING (AP)—China's leaders scrambled Saturday to contain public dismay over widespread contamination of milk supplies, castigating local officials for negligence while moving to tamp down criticism of the government's response.

Officials promised to keep stores supplied with clean milk and set up medical hot lines nationwide to help people cope with one of the worst product safety scandals in years.

Milk and dairy products from 22 companies have been recalled after batches tainted with the industrial chemical melamine sickened more than 6,200 children and left four infants dead from kidney failure.

"This has caused a very widespread scare in Chinese society, and there's a great deal of mistrust," said Jing Jun, a sociologist at Tsinghua University in Beijing. "People see this as a failure of the government. The companies here were not thoroughly inspected."

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HONG KONG (AP)—The Hong Kong government says a 3-year-old local girl has been diagnosed with a kidney stone after drinking milk laced with the industrial chemical melamine.

The government said in a statement late Saturday that the girl is in good condition and was discharged from the hospital Saturday afternoon.

The statement said the girl drank two to three cups of low-fat milk made by Chinese dairy Yili every day for the past 15 months.

Many leading brands of powdered and liquid milk and other dairy products have been pulled from store shelves in China after infant formula contaminated with melamine sickened more than 6,200 children and left four dead.

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Trying to shore up public confidence, Premier Wen Jiabao told senior Communist Party members that official misconduct contributed to the milk contamination and earlier product scandals. He demanded they put public safety "at the top of the agenda."

"In some places, incidents of food and production safety have continuously arisen and seriously harmed people's lives and health," Wen said in remarks carried on state-run television. "The social impact is vile and the lesson profound."

In a show of concern, Wen's chief deputy made a highly publicized trip to a dairy region south of Beijing at the center of the scandal, visiting farms, shops and a hospital, where he urged "all-out efforts on medical treatment" for the sick.

The energetic response underscored the deep challenge the crisis poses for the communist leadership. The government has staked its legitimacy in part on competent management of a rapidly developing society, a reputation it hoped would be burnished by last month's lavish, well-run Beijing Olympics.

Worry at border as NKorea restores nuclear reactor

AT THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE, Korea (AP)—Dank and mossy, the "invasion" tunnels dug by North Korea beneath its border with the South are a grim reminder the two sides remain at war, locked in a tenuous, decades-long truce watched over by soldiers, tanks and barbed wire.

Now, the communist regime's confirmation it is reviving its nuclear reactor and speculation about Stalinist leader Kim Jong Il's ill health are heating up tensions, with some fearing Kim's death—with no named successor—could cause the regime to fall and hordes of North Koreans to flee.

Analysts say the South Korean government is working on a contingency plan laying out how to handle potential crises, from a nuclear leak to a regime collapse.

Meanwhile, at the border—the world's most heavily fortified—life goes on in what passes for normal for the 2 1/2-mile-wide strip along the 38th parallel that separates the two states.

South Korean soldiers stood guard Friday as tourists milled about Panmunjom, the "Freedom Village" inside the Demilitarized Zone. They gawked at North Korean soldiers, who in turn peered through binoculars trained southward.

At a South Korean military camp in Cheorwon, near the border, troops on break sheltered in the shade smoking cigarettes. In the barracks, soldiers played board games while others wrote letters home.

There was no palpable sense of danger along the border, but experts say officials are preparing for the worst.

"We are concerned about instability," Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Thursday in London. "I think that all of North Korea's neighbors are concerned about instability, in no small part because of the possibility of large flows of refugees."

Impoverished North Korea has a population of 23 million, and more than 6 million of them are going hungry, according to the United Nations' World Food Program.

Until the early 1990s, the number of North Korean defectors—many slipping across the Yalu River into China—numbered a handful a year. But with food scarcities worsening since then from floods and mismanagement, the number has risen steadily to more than 1,000 defecting yearly, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Flooding in Thailand kills 14, sickens over 53,000

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Floods in Thailand have killed 14 people and sickened more than 53,000 others, including many who contracted waterborne ailments after wading through floodwaters, the government said Saturday. The 14 people were swept away by flash floods that hit 36 of Thailand's 76 provinces over the past nine days, the Ministry of Public Health said. It warned residents that floodwaters were full of parasitic leeches, human waste and bacteria that can cause skin infections and fungus. The ministry said 53,946 people were sickened, with 35 percent suffering from skin funguses and 27 percent from cold and respiratory problems. Others suffered from diarrhea, it said. "We urge that people travel through flooded areas by boat or wear long pants tied at the feet with plastic bags if they must wade through flood water," Prat Boonyawongwiroj, permanent secretary for public health, said in a statement. Officials were calculating the damage from the floods, which destroyed farmland and inundated villages, the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Center said.

Malaysia frees blogger held for suspected sedition

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian police on Saturday freed a prominent political blogger who was arrested for suspected sedition after he launched an online protest against Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's embattled government. The case underscores the government's struggle to tackle increasing public dissent amid a threat by the opposition to topple Abdullah's administration through parliamentary defections. The blogger, Syed Azidi Syed Aziz, drew the government's ire last month when he posted a picture of Malaysia's national flag upside down on his popular blog and urged other Internet bloggers to follow suit to protest the country's political and economic problems. Authorities arrested Syed Azidi on Wednesday, saying he was being investigated for sedition, which is punishable by up to three years in prison. Syed Azidi said in a statement posted on his "Kickdefella" blog that he was released Saturday. He said police treated him "well and most of the time, beyond the call of duty. Police officials familiar with Syed Azidi's case could not immediately be contacted, and it was not clear whether he would face formal charges later.

Report: Fire at Chinese nightclub kills 43

BEIJING (AP)—State media says a fire has killed at least 43 people in a nightclub in southern China. The official Xinhua News Agency said the fire broke out late Saturday night in the club in Shenzhen, a city in Guangdong province just over the border with Hong Kong. It said at least 51 people were injured in the blaze. Xinhua did not give a cause for the fire, which has been extinguished.

World

ANC forces South African President Mbeki to resign

AP

African National Congress (ANC) secretary-general Gwede Mantashe, left, and party members walk towards the media room for briefing in Johannesburg, South Africa, Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008. Mantashe said the top-level National Executive Committee has "decided to recall the president of the republic before his term of office expires."

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—President Thabo Mbeki bowed to heavy pressure from his own party to resign Saturday, tossed to the sidelines of the economic powerhouse he built up as punishment for allegedly abusing his power in trying to quash a popular rival.

The swiftness of the ouster likely will stoke fears about the political and financial direction of South Africa, particularly if key Cabinet ministers decide to quit in solidarity with Mbeki.

But the change also allows the governing African National Congress to declare its internal leadership battle over and turn its attention to next year's elections, when key concerns will be about corruption and demands from the poor for jobs and houses.

Even as it demanded he step down, the ANC praised Mbeki for overseeing unprecedented growth. But little of the wealth created since he succeeded Nelson Mandela in 1999 has trickled down to the black majority that had hoped for more with the end of apartheid.

The result is that poor blacks have flocked to the ANC's populist leader, Jacob Zuma, a one-time Mbeki protege who became a potent foe. He is considered front-runner for next year's presidential election, but parliament will pick an interim leader to take over from Mbeki.

While Zuma and Mbeki espouse similar views of South Africa's future, they differ sharply in style. Aloof and donnish, Mbeki won praise from business but never attained the public support enjoyed by the personable, energetic Zuma, particularly among leftists, union members and young people. Many poor people lionize Zuma as a leader who understands the pain of the millions of South Africans who remain on the margins of society.

The Young Communist League said Mbeki's departure gives the government "an opportunity to intensify the provision of quality services to our people, especially the working class and the poor."

Mbeki came under pressure from his party to quit following a judge's ruling last week that he may have had a role in Zuma being charged with corruption. Mbeki, who was due to leave office next year after two terms as president, denied that but gave in to the demands Saturday.

The ANC's secretary-general, Gwede Mantashe, said Mbeki would remain president until an interim one was appointed, but Mbeki was already stepping back. He sent the foreign minister to head the delegation Mbeki had planned to take to the U.N. General Assembly.

Mantashe said parliament, which is controlled by the ANC, would meet soon to formalize the process for replacing Mbeki. Parliament elects the president in South Africa.

A major concern was threats by key Cabinet ministers to quit over Mbeki's removal. Attention was especially focused on Finance Minister Trevor Manuel, who has shared the credit with Mbeki for South Africa's sustained economic growth and investor-friendly policies over the past decade.

Mantashe said Zuma was meeting with Cabinet ministers hoping to persuade them to stay on, saying the top priority was "ensuring the smooth running of the country."

Mexico combats police corruption with mortgages

MORELIA, Mexico (AP)—Mexican police are testing a new weapon against widespread corruption in their ranks: home ownership.

Officers and prison guards in Michoacan state can now get special deals on houses and financing through a pilot program designed to keep them out of the pockets of organized crime. The strategy is part of Mexico's desperate push to professionalize local law enforcement, infamous for extorting bribes at bogus traffic stops and providing security for drug lords.

Through a partnership between a private homebuilder and the state, more than 4,000 police and prison guards who normally wouldn't qualify are eligible for mortgages on brand new homes under construction outside Morelia, the state capital. The state provides the land and gets refunded from the mortgage payments. The homeowners must pass background checks and forfeit the property if convicted of a crime.

The program fulfills a dream deferred for some police officers.

"It's the first time they've given us the opportunity and that anyone has cared about us," said Fabian Arreola, 33, a Michoacan highway patrolman and army veteran who grew up on a small ranch with a dirt floor. He supports a wife and three boys on about $9,600 a year.

"This is a dream for all of us who never had our own home," said Michoacan SWAT team officer Luis Alberto Cruz, a mortgage applicant who grew up in a one-bedroom apartment with seven siblings. He relies on hazard pay to make ends meet.

Scholar claims to find medieval Jewish capital

MOSCOW (AP)—A Russian archaeologist says he has found the lost capital of the Khazars, a powerful nation that adopted Judaism as its official religion more than 1,000 years ago, only to disappear leaving little trace of its culture.

Dmitry Vasilyev, a professor at Astrakhan State University, said his nine-year excavation near the Caspian Sea has finally unearthed the foundations of a triangular fortress of flamed brick, along with modest yurt-shaped dwellings, and he believes these are part of what was once Itil, the Khazar capital

By law Khazars could use flamed bricks only in the capital, Vasilyev said. The general location of the city on the Silk Road was confirmed in medieval chronicles by Arab, Jewish and European authors.

"The discovery of the capital of Eastern Europe's first feudal state is of great significance," he told The Associated Press. "We should view it as part of Russian history."

Kevin Brook, the American author of "The Jews of Khazaria," e-mailed Wednesday that he has followed the Itil dig over the years, and even though it has yielded no Jewish artifacts, "Now I'm as confident as the archaeological team is that they've truly found the long-lost city,

The Khazars were a Turkic tribe that roamed the steppes from Northern China to the Black Sea. Between the 7th and 10th centuries they conquered huge swaths of what is now southern Russia and Ukraine, the Caucasus Mountains and Central Asia as far as the Aral Sea.

Itil, about 800 miles south of Moscow, had a population of up to 60,000 and occupied 0.8 square miles of marshy plains southwest of the Russian Caspian Sea port of Astrakhan, Vasilyev said.

AP

This July 30, 2005 photo shows an excavation of an 11th-12th century house made of hard-burnt bricks in Itil, a Silk Road city that served as the Khazar capital, near Astrakhan, about 800 miles (1280 km) south of Moscow, The Khazars established the first feudal state in eastern Europe.

Palestinians despairing of independence effort

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—Prominent Palestinians are lighting a fire under Israel's feet by proposing a peace in which there would be no separate Palestine and Israel, but a single state with equal rights for all.

The recent talk of a binational state of Arabs and Jews may be little more than a Palestinian pressure tactic fed by frustration over the failure of talks on a two-state solution, but it has set Israeli leaders on edge.

Such a merger of Israel with the West Bank and Gaza Strip would quickly result in the Jews being outnumbered by the faster-growing Arab population. For most Israelis it would result in a nightmare choice: Give the Arabs full voting rights and lose Israel's Jewish character, or deny them equality and be branded an apartheid state.

This reality is not lost on Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. He created a stir last November when he told an Israeli newspaper that "the state of Israel is finished" unless each side gets a state of its own. And this week he pressed his case to his Cabinet.

Israel, he said, has no choice but to abandon the lands it captured during the 1967 war.

"Forty years after the Six-Day War, the international community's willingness to accept Israel as a binational state is growing," he said. "Some day, sooner than we think, we will long for the solutions that some of us reject today."

Car bomb explodes in Basque capital

MADRID, Spain (AP)—The Interior Ministry says a car bomb has exploded on the outskirts of the Basque capital, causing considerable damage but no injuries.

A ministry spokeswoman says the bomb went off early Sunday in Vitoria-Gasteiz. A telephone warning by a person claiming to speak on behalf of the armed Basque separatist group ETA was made to local police at around 11:15 p.m., giving enough time to evacuate and cordon off the area, the spokeswoman said.

A nearby restaurant had to be cleared, she told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because government rules forbid her name to be published.

ETA has killed more than 825 people since launching its armed campaign for an independent Basque homeland in the late 1960s.

Health & Fitness

Crunching the facts about fab abs

By JEANNINE STEIN
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Six-pack abs—everyone wants them, but only some know the best ways to get them. Contrary to popular belief, it's not just about staying loyal to the standard crunches. The secret to the six-pack is more complex and incorporates a healthful diet to reduce fat, cardio to get lean and let those abs show, and functional exercises that consistently engage the core muscles, which also involve the back.

Those key abdominal muscle groups include the rectus abdominis (the ones along the front that comprise the six-pack); the internal and external obliques that flank the rectus abdominis and help the trunk rotate; and the deep muscle layer called the transversus abdominis that lends stability to the pelvis.

Three Southern California personal trainers offer their core ab thoughts.

Jon Baraglia

National director of personal training development for Bally Total Fitness:

The truth about abs is that you have a layer of fat between the skin and the muscle, and it doesn't matter how many crunches you do: If you don't cut down that layer of fat, you'll never see your abs. You have to do exercises that are high in caloric expenditures—compound joint movements like squats, lunges, lower body exercises that recruit a lot of muscle fibers because they're incorporating more than one muscle group. The overall result is that you burn more calories.

There is no such thing as spot reduction. You're not going to lose fat in your midsection if all you're doing is crunches. Crunches burn very few calories compared with other things you can do.

People who aren't overweight (but still have that layer of fat) can bump up the intensity of their workouts. Also, a lot of people like to shy away from resistance training and focus on cardio, but resistance training increases lean muscle mass, and you burn more calories to maintain that lean muscle mass, so your body's daily caloric expenditure increases.

One great exercise is a simple bicycle crunch—alternate bringing your elbow to the opposite knee. That rotation is good for your abs and obliques. Another good one is the captain's chair (an exercise using equipment that looks like a chair with no seat; the body is supported by the arms as the legs come up to the chest). Your lower body is unstable, so when you bring your knees up to your chest, you have to call on all the muscles in the core. In the advanced version, the legs come straight up (at a 90-degree angle).

Jana King

Personal trainer and abdominals group fitness instructor, Equinox, Santa Monica:

Practicing good posture throughout the day is really going to give you a flat stomach. I tell my clients that no matter what they're doing in the gym, they should suck in their stomach, imagining that they're bringing their belly button to their spine. If they're on the mat or on a machine, like the knee extension machine, they should bring their lower back to the mat or make sure it's in contact with the seat. Even when I'm driving I'll sit up straight and pull my stomach in. It can be more effective than five minutes of abs, because you're constantly activating those muscles.

I also like to do some isolation exercises—isometric holds, like planks, to develop the deep-tissue muscles such as the transverse abdominis and the internal and external obliques. That helps support your posture and develops the muscles that keep the stomach flat.

Developing back muscles is important too. If you only work on your abs, then your lower back won't be strong enough to help you sit up straight. If you don't work them out, you'll start to bring your body forward, rather than maintain that good posture. To do a back extension, lie down on your stomach and raise your hands and feet so that your stomach is the only thing touching the ground.

Anthony Slater

Head performance specialist at Core Performance Center, Santa Monica:

We train with the concept of pillar strength—that encompasses the six-pack and a little beyond. It's the foundation for movement and includes the hips, torso and shoulders. ... We're creating this pillar that allows you to train more, to withstand more volume and intensity, so that you'll lose weight and change your body composition.

One exercise is a side bridge that adds a variation with a cable row. You're (on your side) with your elbow under your shoulder, forming a bridge from the side of your foot, which is on the ground, to your elbow. The legs are stacked and the posture is long. You have a cable in your top hand, and you row the weight to your side, like a dumbbell row, pulling with your shoulder blade. As you pull, it creates a torque against your body, which should stay strong. This promotes stability in the hip and the shoulder blade and the torso, which includes the rectus abdominis and obliques. You have to think about maintaining that pillar posture—the focus is on the quality of the movement. But in order to maintain that quality, the abs have to be contributing, stabilizing the body.

The exercise can be (made easier) by coming down to your knees instead of resting on your feet. Or, instead of having the legs stacked, add a little stability by having one leg forward and the other back. To add difficulty, lift the top leg.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Anthony Slater of Core Performance Center in Santa Monica, Calif., engages his abs to help stabilize his body in the pillar posture.

FROM START TO FITNESS

Too tired to exercise

By ANDREA RENEE WYATT, M.S.S., C.S.C.S.
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: After a long day at work I am exhausted and too tired to exercise. I know I need to do some type of exercise, but I am not sure what I can do being so drained. How can I start exercising even though I am tired?

A: Hectic lifestyles can often leave you feeling as if you are too tired to exercise; however, a lack of exercise may be adding to your fatigue. Research has shown that not only can exercise help fight fatigue, it also can help increase energy levels and improve sleep.

Low-intensity exercise such as walking at a steady but comfortable pace is a great place to start. Walking just a few times a week to start can begin to increase your energy levels and allow you to be less tired throughout your day. Be patient and begin to incorporate moderate exercise into your schedule.

Fighting the urge to skip the gym or deciding not to exercise can be a challenge at first; however, the more you begin to add exercise into your schedule and begin to see results, the more of a habit it will become. Participating in regular exercise is the key, and forming these habits may take time.

Begin with an activity you enjoy, and start slowly. Many exercisers have found that although they may have felt tired at the start of their workout, by the end they feel more energetic and alert. Set aside time in your schedule and try to stick with the plan. The more your body experiences and becomes accustomed to exercising, the more you can adapt to new expended calories and the good stress on your body.

This same effect has been linked to improvements in sleep quality among people who work out. In studies, regular exercisers have experienced increased feelings of alertness throughout the day after recording improved quality of sleep. They attribute this to an ongoing exercise program several times a week.

The results of regular exercise have many benefits, with the increase in energy being a great perk. Be sure to check with your physician to be sure your fatigue is not due to a medical condition, and once cleared, remember again to start slowly. Taking small steps toward beginning to exercise will allow your body to change over time. Push through any obstacles that will keep you off track or discourage you from sticking with your exercise program.

Always consult a physician before beginning an exercise program. If you have a fitness or training question, write to Andrea in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Child addiction lurks in medicine chest

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

Prescriptions for painkillers—left over from surgeries, orthopedic injuries or dental work—frequently languish unfinished in the family medicine chest.

Anti-anxiety medications, including the benzodiazepines known by their commercial names Xanax and Ativan, take up shelf space because they are prescribed for episodic use.

And as a growing number of adults are diagnosed with ADHD, their stimulant medication often sits alongside that of their children with attention difficulties.

Unwittingly, parents who leave these medications unsecured and unmonitored are tempting their children—and their children's friends—to try drugs they have heard and read about from schoolmates, in movies and on the Internet. In a teenager's calculation, the price is right and the risks—of scoring the drugs, at least—are low.

For parents, the antidotes to youthful rebellion and the impulse to dangerous experimentation may be complex and elusive. But making it harder for kids to lay hands on drugs with high addiction potential, say experts, is simple: Lock 'em up. The drugs, not the kids.

"In total, nearly half the prescription drugs being abused by teens originate in the homes of passive pusher parents," concluded National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse" released in August by Columbia University's National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse.

CASA Executive Director James Califano called parents who fail to lock up prescription medications—or who fail to ask the parents of their kids' friends to do the same—"problem parents."

Experts also urge parents to dispose of prescription drugs that remain unused after their purpose has been served. The Office of National Drug Control Policy warns against flushing pills down the toilet—which sends them into public water supplies—and recommends disposing of them in a coffee canister or other tightly closed opaque container, under coffee grounds or kitty litter to make exploration or retrieval less appealing.

If prescription medications need to be retained for future use, parents should keep an inventory of the drugs and secure them, either under lock and key or by keeping them where a curious child or teenager won't find them.

The stakes are high not only for teenagers and young adults but for their younger siblings as well.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported recently that deaths from drug use among young people age 15 to 24 doubled from 1999 to 2004 with the majority involving prescription painkillers.

Recently, the Annals of Emergency Medicine reported 9,147 cases of accidental ingestion of opiates by children under age 6—for whom such medications can be lethal even at very small doses—in a 3 1/2-year period starting January 2003. In eight cases, death was the result.

The authors—a trio of University of Colorado Medical School researchers—believe the "poisoning of young children from prescription opioid occurs regularly," and suggests the number of children who actually found and took pain pills left out is probably much higher, since they only surveyed a portion of U.S. poison control centers to gather their data.

"The word is getting out to teens and their parents that prescription medications are dangerous when used improperly, but plenty of risk remains," says Dr. Linda Lawrence, president of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

"Adults need to monitor closely all medications in the house, and apply the same sense of caution that they would to any potentially dangerous substance."

Life & Style

Emmy nominees pause to party before big night

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The 60th Primetime Emmy Awards happen Sunday night, but the Hollywood action is already in full swing. Some run-up highlights:

■■■

CALM BEFORE THE STORM: Work hard, party right.

Emmy nominees Chandra Wilson, Sandra Oh, Sarah Silverman, Jon Hamm and Don Rickles were among the stars at a luxe party held in their honor Friday, where many said they needed the breather in a frantic week.

The Academy of Television Arts and Sciences feted nominated performers at a private soiree at the Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood.

In a sunny room filled with yellow roses and orange daisies, a five-piece band played on the patio while guests munched on mini meat loaves, mac 'n' cheese and wild salmon "Wellington." They sipped martinis and a special wine vintage bottled just for the Emmys.

Guests also had a chance to try on pricey diamonds and make their own chocolate gift bags, and each took home a mini makeup kit for the big day.

For the nominees, it was a rare chance to relax in an otherwise busy week.

"I can't keep everything straight from day to day," said Hamm, up for his first Emmy for "Mad Men." "It's been very busy, but it's been busy for a good cause and an exciting cause."

Kathryn Joosten, who won an Emmy last week for her guest appearance on "Desperate Housewives," said she was all about enjoying the week's festivities.

"I already got my Emmy, so I'm just chilling now," she said.

Jon Cryer, who's enjoying his third Emmy nod for "Two and a Half Men," said he's just as happy for his colleagues as he is for himself.

"The excitement for me this year is seeing people like Jon Hamm get nominated," he said. "He and I did a pilot together years ago and it's like, 'Oh my God, he's nominated! This is fantastic!' (The Emmys) are like going to a huge great party with everybody you ever cared about professionally."

AP

Actor Jon Hamm, left, and Jennifer Westfeldt arrive at the 2008 Primetime Emmy Awards Nominees for Outstanding Performance reception in Los Angeles on Friday, Sept. 19, 2008.

Though it's Hamm's first Emmy show, he said he won't make a big deal out of getting ready: "I'm probably going to watch some football, take a shower, put on my suit and go to the thing."

The show airs at 8 p.m EDT on ABC.

■■■

A MAJOR MASHUP: Josh Groban has raised us up, and now he's going to mix it up.

Groban spent some time Friday on the Nokia Theatre stage rehearsing a TV show theme-song medley he'll sing live from there for Sunday's show. It includes 25 favorite songs, from the "Golden Girls" theme to the "South Park" song - sung in the cartoon characters' voices.

Wearing black jeans and a long-sleeved T-shirt, his shaggy hair tucked under a gray cap, Groban ran through his four-minute performance as clips from "The Jeffersons" and "Cops" - played on giant screens behind him.

"Nothing I'm singing I've ever sung before, except for 'South Park' with friends," the 27-year-old said. "There's a lot of stuff that allows me to just be me, then there's a lot of stuff that allows me to let my multiple personalities to go play for a bit."

Emmy telecast producer Ken Ehrlich came up with the medley idea just after the Grammys, which he also produced. Ehrlich, Groban and musical director Greg Phillinganes started with 35 songs, then trimmed the selection down to for the show.

"Josh was the only person in my mind" for the performance, Ehrlich said. "I don't think there's anything he can't do or won't try, and that's the fun part."

The performance also includes dancing girls and a surprise appearance by an iconic TV personality.

"I'm so, so excited, especially on a show like the Emmys, to be able to go out there and just goof off," Groban said. "It's so much fun and I hope the audience has fun, too."

■■■

SEAL WILL BE THERE: Heidi Klum isn't nervous about co-hosting the Emmys. Just ask her husband.

"You know Heidi. I don't think she really gets nervous," he said on the red carpet Thursday during a Hollywood event at Paramount Studios honoring film producer Arnon Milchan and celebrating the 60th anniversary of Israel. "She's really excited. She's working hard."

Klum was so busy, she was unable to join Seal at the last minute at the glitzy event. The R&B singer, who attended last year's ceremony alongside Klum, said he would again be in the audience to support his supermodel wife.

However, Jason Alexander, who has been nominated for several Emmys but never won, is planning to steer clear of the show.

"Unless they're nominating me just because they like me, I can walk right by it and wave at it and not have to care, although I do have some friends that are nominated that I'll be rooting for at home," Alexander said before the event.

Hall of Fame drummer Earl Palmer dead at 84

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Earl Palmer, the session drummer whose pioneering backbeats were recorded on such classics as Little Richard's "Tutti Frutti" and The Righteous Brothers' "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'," has died. He was 84.

Palmer died Friday at his Los Angeles home after fighting a lengthy illness, his spokesman Kevin Sasaki said.

Born in New Orleans in 1924 and later moving to Los Angeles, Palmer worked extensively in both cities, recording with some of the music world's all-time greats on thousands of tracks.

His beats form the backdrop on Ike and Tina Turner's "River Deep, Mountain High," Fats Domino's "The Fat Man" and "I Hear You Knockin'" by Smiley Lewis.

From his Los Angeles home, Palmer drummed for music producer Phil Spector and Motown, and his session credits include artists as diverse as the Monkees, Neil Young and Frank Sinatra.

"He was groundbreaking," said Ed Vodika, the pianist in the Earl Palmer Trio. Palmer "shaped American music for the '50s, '60s and '70s."

Vodika said he met Palmer about 10 years ago and was asked to join the trio. The pianist said he spent the next five years playing weekly gigs in Los Angeles that attracted a host of big-name musicians, from Bonnie Raitt to Ringo Starr.

"He worked with so many people in his career ... you never knew who would be in the audience," Vodika said.

Palmer was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2000. According to the institution's Web site, Little Richard wrote in his autobiography that Palmer "is probably the greatest session drummer of all time."

Palmer married four times and is survived by his seven children.

Ex-Blink 182 drummer, DJ escape fatal SC jet crash

WEST COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Hours after performing for thousands of South Carolina college students, former Blink-182 drummer Travis Barker and celebrity disc jockey DJ AM were critically injured in a fiery Learjet crash that killed four people, authorities said Saturday.

Officials said the plane carrying six people was departing shortly before midnight Friday when air traffic controllers reporting seeing sparks. The plane hurtled off the end of a runway and came to rest a quarter-mile away on an embankment across a five-lane highway, engulfed in flames.

Barker and DJ AM, whose real name is Adam Goldstein, were in critical but stable condition at a burn center in Augusta, Ga., on Saturday afternoon, hospital spokeswoman Beth Frits said. Augusta is about 75 miles southwest of Columbia.

One witness said he was driving when a fireball streaked across the highway about 600 feet ahead of him. William Owns said he approached to see the two survivors frantically trying to remove their burning clothes.

"I noticed two guys who were on fire and it looked like a dance: They didn't know what to do," said Owens, a 60-year-old delivery van driver.

Goldstein had stripped off his own shirt and was helping Barker strip naked, said Owens, who was able to identify the men Saturday night because of news reports that showed Barker's extensive tattoos.

Owens said Goldstein told him four other people were on board the jet, but the flames were too intense to get close.

"'Oh my God' was all they were saying," Owens said of Barker and Goldstein. "They stood there and it's like - didn't know what to do. None of us did." Two other passengers - Chris Baker, 29, of Studio City, Calif., and Charles Still, 25, of Los Angeles - died, as did pilot Sarah Lemmon, 31, of Anaheim Hills, Calif., and co-pilot James Bland, 52, of Carlsbad, Calif., according to the county coroner. Baker was an assistant to Barker and Still was a security guard for the musician.

The plane was headed for Van Nuys, Calif. It is owned by Global Exec Aviation, a California-based charter company, and was certified to operate last year, Hersman said. The company expressed its condolences in a statement and said it was working with investigators to determine the cause of the crash.

A longtime friend of the co-pilot said Bland flew anti-smuggling missions 20 years for the U.S. Customs Service and also flew missions for the Santa Ana (Calif.) Police Department and U.S. Border Patrol.

"He was such an experienced pilot, it had to be something beyond their control," said Tim Ferrill, a Huntington Beach, Calif., pilot. "He was an absolutely meticulous pilot, very thorough and not a risk-taker at all."

At the crash site Saturday, the air was still heavy with the odor of jet fuel. A trail of black soot led off a runway. The nose of the aircraft was gone and the roof was missing from two-thirds of the charred plane.

AP

The wreckage of a Learjet that was carrying former Blink 182 drummer Travis Barker, Adam Goldstein, also known as DJ AM, and four others rests on an embankment along Highway 302, along the outskirts of the Columbia Metropolitan Airport, Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008, in Columbia, S.C. Barker and Goldstein were critically injured; two other passengers and two crew members were killed.

National Transportation Safety Board member Debbie Hersman said officials recovered the cockpit voice recorder but had yet to analyze it or determine whether the recording was in good condition. She said the weather was clear when the plane took off, but said no factors had been ruled out.

Eddie Vedder pens song for Chicago Cubs die-hards

CHICAGO (AP)—A note from Eddie Vedder: The Cubs are still alive.

The Pearl Jam front man has released a song for the Chicago baseball team at the request of Cubs great Ernie Banks. It's called "All the Way."

Vedder made the song available on Pearl Jam's Web site this week. It's been buzzing on radios in Chicago and in bars near Wrigley Field.

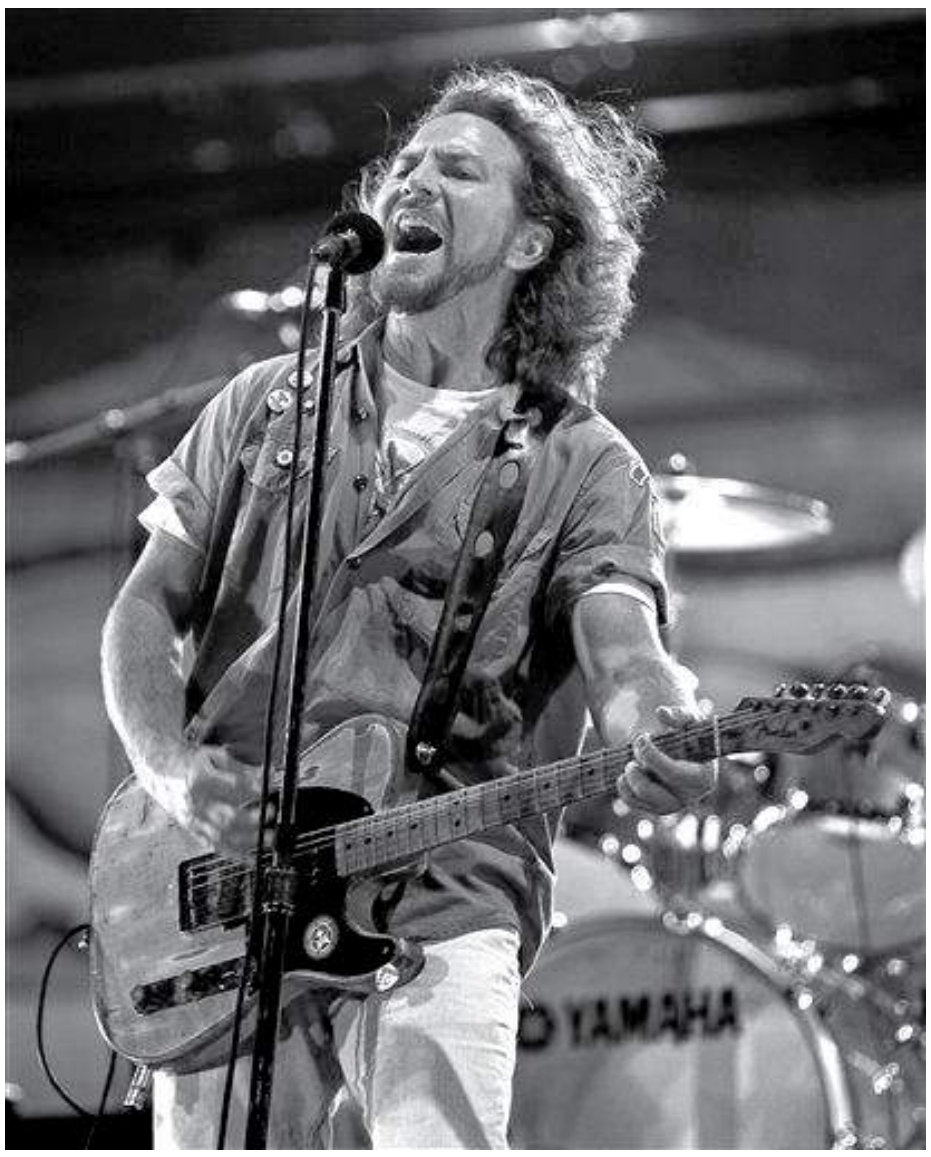
The lyrics pay homage to a team that hasn't won a World Series for 100 years. The Cubs defeated the St. Louis Cardinals on Saturday to clinch the NL Central title.

"Someday we'll go all the way," the refrain goes. "Yeah, someday we'll go all the way."

Though Vedder became synonymous with the Seattle grunge sound in the '90s, he was born in the Chicago area and is a longtime Cubs fan.

"When you're born in Chicago you're blessed and you're healed the first time you walk into Wrigley Field," Vedder writes.

Vedder's Grammy-winning band is known for such songs as "Alive" and "Evenflow."



AP

This Saturday, June 14, 2008 file photo shows Pearl Jam lead singer Eddie Vedder as he performs at the Bonnaroo music festival in Manchester, Tenn. A note from Eddie Vedder: The Cubs are still alive.

McCartney's ex donating $1M in vegan food to Bronx

AP

Heather Mills leaves central London's Royal Courts of Justice, following the announcement of the judgment of her divorce with Paul McCartney, in this Monday March 17, 2008 file photo.

NEW YORK (AP)—Paul McCartney's ex-wife is donating $1 million worth of soy hamburgers, soy hot dogs and soy chicken cutlets to one of the poorest neighborhoods in the Bronx.

Heather Mills is set to announce the donation just before the Hunts Point Back to School Fair kicks off Saturday afternoon. The vegan animal rights campaigner is an honorary chairwoman of the nonprofit that organizes the event.

She tells the New York Post that she wants to make sure children in the neighborhood "have as many nutritional advantages as anyone else."

Children in Hunts Point have some of the highest obesity and asthma rates in the city.

Mills and McCartney were granted a divorce earlier this year.

Author JK Rowling backs Labour Party with big check

LONDON (AP)—It sounds like Harry Potter will vote for the Labour Party when the boy wizard is old enough to cast a ballot.

Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling made a rare foray into Britain's bruising political battles Saturday, donating $1.8 million to the struggling Labour Party and accusing the rival Conservatives of discriminating against poor parents trying to work their way out of poverty.

In a statement that referred back to the days when she was struggling to feed and cloth her family, Rowling said Prime Minister Gordon Brown has worked hard to reduce child poverty while Conservative chief David Cameron has proposed tax changes that would hurt working single parents.

"I believe that poor and vulnerable families will fare much better under the Labour Party than they would under a Cameron-led Conservative Party," said Rowling, who has become one of the world's richest and most successful authors with the unprecedented appetite for Harry Potter stories.

The Labour Party opens its annual conference trailing the resurgent Conservatives by more than 20 points in most opinion polls with an election due within two years.

Brown, who is trying to quash a rebellion from some members of his own party, thanked Rowling for the donation, which comes at a time when the Labour Party is saddled with extensive debts. He said he was "delighted" with her help.

Rowling has generally stayed out of the political frays, but she appears to have been upset by Conservative tax plans that she said would increase benefits for married couples without helping single parents.

"David Cameron's promise of tax perks for the married is reminiscent of the Conservative government I experienced as a lone parent," she said. "It sends the message that the Conservatives still believe a childless, dual-income, but married couple is more deserving of a financial pat on the head than those struggling, as I once was, to keep their families afloat in difficult times."

British newspapers this year estimated Rowling's wealth at $1 billion.

AP

This Monday, Dec. 10, 2007 file photo shows British writer J.K. Rowling, in London.

Elderly patients need helping hands during visits to doctor

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I work in a doctor's office where some of our elderly patients are dropped off by a transportation company. These patients often have no one with them or meeting them in the office.

If the person is coherent, it's not a problem. But when the patient isn't, then he or she is unable to fill out the forms or give us insurance information. Sometimes the people may not even know why they are in our office. Of course, this means they are unable to discuss their problem with the doctor. We assist these patients as much as we can, helping them fill out the forms, etc., but this is a busy office, and it causes other patients to be delayed as well as the doctor.

We don't blame the transportation services, but we are asking that someone accompany the patient and be prepared to fill out our forms even if the patient has been there before because the information must be updated every year.

If the patient has a designated power of attorney, then that's who should accompany the patient and be sure to bring the power of attorney papers along.

It's heartbreaking to see this scenario. We can't provide proper care if the patient can't communicate the problem to us and the doctor. I hope nursing homes and loved ones will read this and do what's best for the patient.

AN OFFICE THAT CARES IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR OFFICE THAT CARES: You have raised an important issue, and thank you for pointing it out. It would be a good idea for doctors to require that patients who are unable to speak for themselves have an escort.

Ideally, the patient's family should see that their family member has someone in attendance. Some assisted-living facilities do send an escort or an aide. However, if that is not possible, then a case management program should be set up by a social worker, either through the nursing home or the hospital.

▪▪▪

DEAR ABBY: I'm struggling with a question of family loyalty. I grew up in a broken home with no father and was subjected to various kinds of abuse. I'm now 21 and have had a serious boyfriend, "Will," for several years. Will's family has always welcomed me with open arms, and I enjoy being with them. They are easy to love, unlike my own family.

Of course I love my mom and sibling. We have been through a lot together. The problem is, I prefer spending holidays and trips home with Will's family rather than my own. His family get-togethers are filled with laughter, games and stimulating conversation. When my family gets together, there is nothing but negative talk about people, jobs, the future -- basically everything. There are often screaming matches and swearing, with me listening with tears in my eyes.

I endured the environment during my entire childhood, and I don't want to go back to it. Am I being disloyal in choosing my boyfriend's family over my own the majority of the time?

DIVIDED IN MILWAUKEE

DEAR DIVIDED: Considering the circumstances, I don't think you are being disloyal. However, rather that writing your family off entirely, allot a certain amount of time to see them. When the negativity starts, explain that it makes you very uncomfortable when they act that way, and that you're going to Will's house. It will send a pointed message that may be overdue.

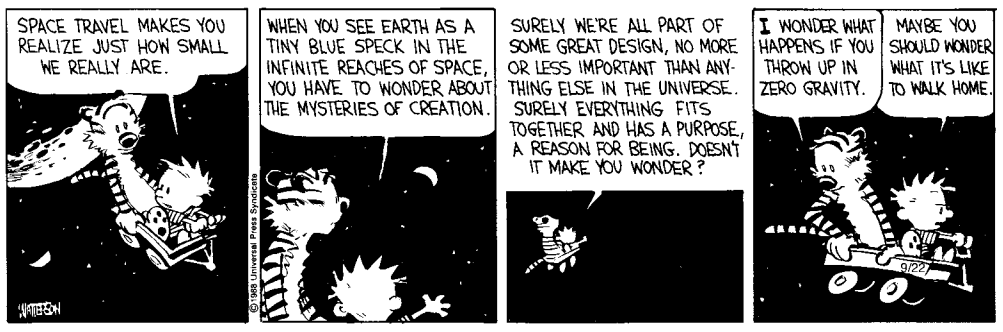
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


SPACE TRAVEL MAKES YOU REALIZE JUST HOW SMALL WE REALLY ARE.
WHEN YOU SEE EARTH AS A TINY BLUE SPECK IN THE INFINITE REACHES OF SPACE, YOU HAVE TO WONDER ABOUT THE MYSTERIES OF CREATION.
SURELY WE'RE ALL PART OF SOME GREAT DESIGN, NO MORE OR LESS IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE UNIVERSE. SURELY EVERYTHING FITS TOGETHER AND HAS A PURPOSE, A REASON FOR BEING. DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU WONDER?
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU THROW UP IN ZERO GRAVITY.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE TO WALK HOME.
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

THESE NEW LAPTOP COMPUTERS LOOK PRETTY COOL
MAYBE I SHOULD GET ONE
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THEY'LL NEVER REPLACE CATS
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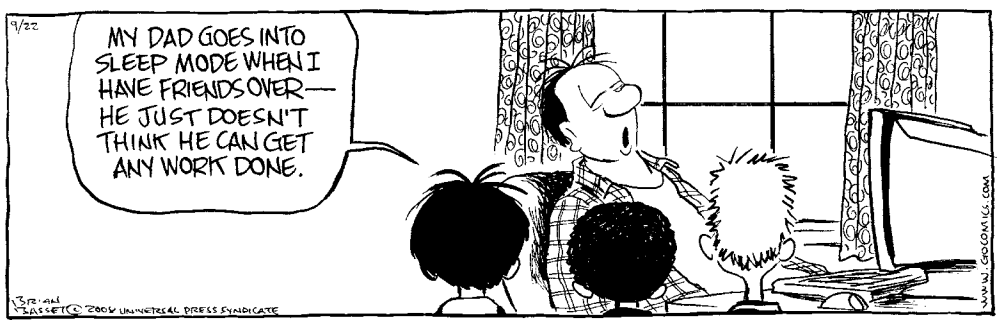
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


9/22
MY DAD GOES INTO SLEEP MODE WHEN I HAVE FRIENDS OVER— HE JUST DOESN'T THINK HE CAN GET ANY WORK DONE.
BRIAN BASSET © 2008 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE
WWW.BLOGOMICS.COM

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

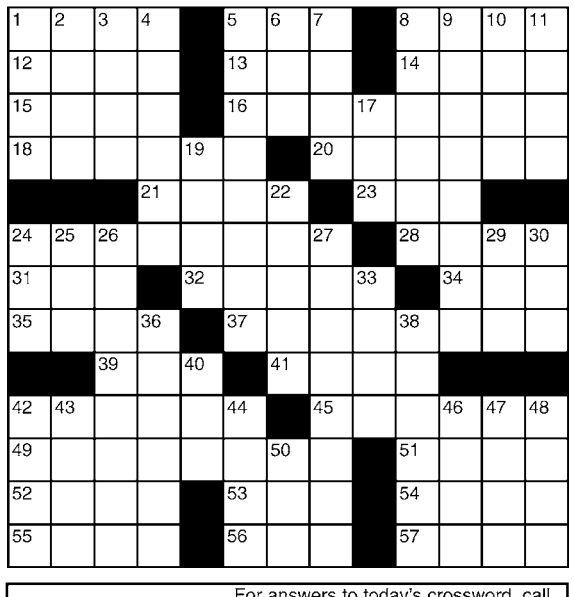
ACROSS
1 Information
5 "Platoon" setting
8 Strikebreaker
12 Enrages
13 "Born in the —"
14 Domesticate
15 Oceans
16 Menace
18 Islamic leader
20 To-do list entry
21 Thailand, once
23 Solidify
24 Name
28 Turned blue?
31 Spelling contest
32 1988 movie, "Without —"
34 Go schussing
35 Sailor's mop
37 Intensify
39 Deity
41 Birthright barterer
42 Restitution
45 Look up to
49 Wolfram
51 Heehaw
52 "Beetle Bailey" dog
53 Common Mkt.
54 Unrivaled
55 Disarray
56 Post-opposite
57 Tolkien's tree creatures

DOWN
1 Platter
2 Vicinity
3 Blue hue
4 St. Francis' home
5 Small, short-tailed bird
6 Blond shade
7 Stallion's companion
8 Didn't blink
9 Action accelerator
10 "So be it"
11 Flex
17 Work unit
19 Leaning Tower of —
22 Big fracas
24 Couric's employer
25 Chop
26 Chemically active substances
27 Pest
29 — out a living
30 Lotsa noise
33 "Zounds!"
36 Beatnik's drums
38 Hardly conceited
40 Dentist's abbr.
42 Fermi's bit
43 Silent
44 Stairway part
46 Press
47 Carry on
48 Spuds' buds
50 Always, in verse

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	L	E	A	S	E	■	I	C	E	A	G	E
R	A	N	S	O	M	■	S	H	A	R	E	R
P	R	O	P	U	P	■	L	I	T	T	E	R
M	A	L	I	■	H	O	E	R	■	E	S	S
■	■	■	C	H	A	R	■	P	A	R	■	■
E	D	S	■	A	S	I	A	■	L	I	A	M
C	A	T	C	H	I	N	T	H	E	A	C	T
O	H	I	O	■	S	O	L	E	■	L	E	S
■	■	L	Y	E	■	C	A	R	D	■	■	■
E	K	E	■	T	O	O	N	■	O	S	L	O
L	E	T	S	U	P	■	T	A	L	L	O	W
B	E	T	I	D	E	■	I	N	C	I	T	E
E	L	O	P	E	D	■	S	T	E	T	S	■

Saturday's answer 9-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tom Felton, 21; Scott Baio, 47; Joan Jett, 50; Andrea Bocelli, 50

Happy Birthday: Get serious about what really counts. You may find yourself in a predicament this year that will force you to make a decision. Emotional ties with some of the people who depend on you must change. Once you see your relationships clearly, you can eliminate your stress and find your path to success. Your numbers are 3, 8, 14, 22, 27, 39, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A partnership may be on the line if you don't compromise. Don't let sentimental feelings guide you in the wrong direction. Overindulgence, overreacting and overspending will all bring negative results. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Think on a broader scale if you want to make an impression. Emotional talks will help you understand what's required of you. Incorporate a way to help others in your everyday routine and you will build strong associations with your peers. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Strive for perfection and you will win the approval of your peer group. You can talk your way to the top if you set emotions aside and focus on what needs to be done. Money is heading your way. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll find it difficult to keep things in perspective today. Chances are good you will fly off the handle or accuse someone of something without having all the facts. Slow down, don't get anxious, swallow your pride and focus. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Nothing is as bad as it seems. There is a lot to be said for love and relationships but, if you aren't willing to share, it isn't likely you will be able to hold things together. Weigh the pros and cons. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get everything ready and begin to present what you want to do. Go directly to the decision-makers. A change in your position is apparent. Don't be afraid to show emotions. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Get things out of the way early. Once you have freed up your time, you can concentrate on the personal issues in your life that are stressing you out. Bring things out in the open and explain your position. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Reevaluate your position at home and at work. If you feel as if you are being let down or treated unfairly, work toward gaining back what you've lost. A money deal will pay off and old debts can be collected. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): If you can up the value of your place or your assets, you can secure your personal position, allowing you greater bartering power. Offering to help others will position you for future favors. Focus on people who have something to offer in return. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll find it hard to stay out of trouble. Controversial conversations will cause emotional upset with people who count both personally and professionally. Don't share your true feelings until you understand the position others have on the same topic. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Everything can come together if you say what you think and do what you say. Deals can be closed and money can be made. A promise or agreement will allow you to breathe a little easier. One of your ideas will gain interest and pay off. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't misinterpret what's going on in your own home. Someone is not happy with decisions being made. Make sure you clear whatever it is you want to do with the people your plans will affect. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have charm, grace and sophistication and are caring and affectionate. You are intuitive, talented and a gifted speaker. You can hold a grudge.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		2	4		1	9		
3	8						1	7
			7		8			
6		3				8		1
			9		2			
1		7				4		9
			8		4			
9	4						8	6
		1	2		5	3		

Difficulty Level ★ 9/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	7	1	4	2	5	3	6
5	6	3	8	7	9	1	2	4
4	2	1	6	3	5	8	7	9
9	1	8	5	6	7	2	4	3
7	5	4	2	8	3	9	6	1
2	3	6	4	9	1	7	8	5
3	7	2	9	5	4	6	1	8
1	8	9	3	2	6	4	5	7
6	4	5	7	1	8	3	9	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/20

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SIBERIAN OIL INDUSTRY **Solution: 7 letters**

C	M	T	A	T	D	L	W	E	G	R	U	S	R	S
F	O	E	I	G	A	N	A	O	E	R	U	T	U	F
S	O	M	G	F	I	N	A	N	C	E	P	R	S	R
N	B	R	P	N	O	A	K	P	D	S	G	E	S	O
O	A	E	E	A	A	R	T	L	X	U	O	A	I	N
I	R	S	E	S	N	H	P	A	T	E	V	M	A	T
T	R	E	U	O	T	I	C	N	E	E	S	S	I	I
A	E	R	L	L	U	T	E	S	D	M	L	D	R	E
T	L	V	A	D	S	F	E	S	U	P	L	L	P	R
S	S	E	V	E	T	R	A	E	R	O	E	E	O	E
R	W	S	V	E	B	T	I	C	C	E	W	I	R	G
E	Ⓡ	N	G	I	O	H	C	I	R	N	D	F	T	D
V	Ⓘ	A	A	U	L	L	I	R	D	C	A	R	S	I
I	Ⓢ	G	Q	T	N	A	L	P	O	W	E	R	O	R
R	Ⓔ	T	A	R	E	N	E	G	R	O	U	N	D	B

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Airport, Barrels, Boom, Borders, Bridge, Cars, Change, Cold, Companies, Crude, Drill, Expand, Fields, Finance, Forest, Frontier, Future, Generate, Ground, Invest, Land, Moscow, Plans, Plant, Power, Prices, Profit, Quotas, Reserves, Rich, Rise, Rivers, Russia, Save, Serbia, Sold, Stations, Streams, Surge, Surgutneftegas, Taiga, Tank, Value, Wealth, Wells

Last Saturday's Answer: Statistics

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Opening Date:	**09/17/08**	**Closing Date: 10/01/08**
Re-Open Date		**Revised Closing Date**
JVA No. 08-019	Managing Engineer for Power Generation	
Location:	Power Generation, Saipan	
JVA No. 08-020	Engineer (Mechanical, Electrical, and/or Civil Engineer	
Locations:	Power Generation, Saipan; Water and Wastewater, Saipan; and Power Division, Saipan	
JVA No. 08-022	Assistant Engineer (Mechanical and/or Electrical)	
Locations:	Power Generation, Saipan; **Power Generation, Rota**	
JVA No. 08-023	Information Technology Analyst/Engineer	
Location:	IT/EDP, Saipan	
Opening Date:	**09/12/08**	**Closing Date: 09/26/08**
JVA No. 08-026	Trades Technician	
Location:	Water Division, Saipan	
JVA No. 08-027	Trades Assistant	
Location:	Water Division, Saipan	

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San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
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Attorney for Plaintiff
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN INC., Plaintiff, v. AARON TAWNEY AND AGNELIA TAWNEY, Defendants.	)	CIVIL CASE NO. 08-0268 **SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: AARON TAWNEY

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose, Saipan MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment of default may be taken against you for the relief in the complaint.

By order of this Court.

Clerk of Courts
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands

Dated this_____day of September, 2008.

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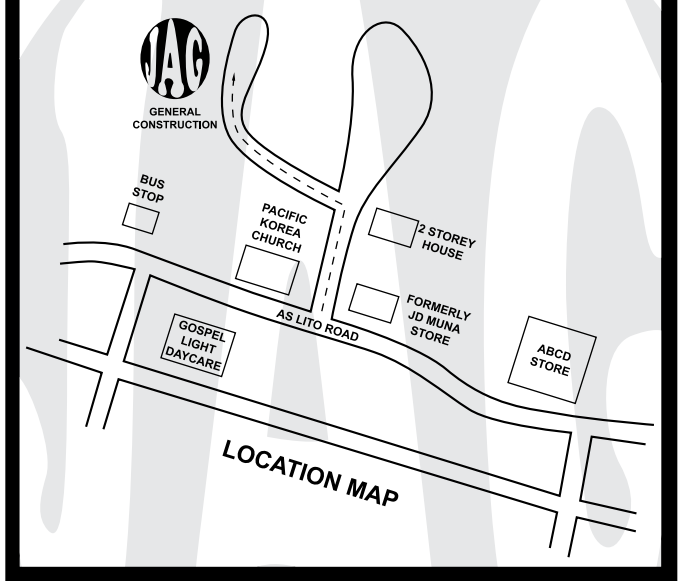

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(REANNOUNCEMENT)
JVA# 08-006

OPENING DATE: September 22, 2008 CLOSING DATE: October 22, 2008

Position: Internal Auditor
Location: Saipan

NATURE OF WORK: The Internal Auditor is responsible for performing comprehensive internal audits of the NMI Retirement Fund and its component organizations under the direction of the Chief Internal Auditor. Work involves the examination, investigation, and review of records, reports, financial statements, and management practices to verify legal compliance with applicable statutes and regulations. The Internal Auditor will assist the supervisor in ensuring that the work performed meets prescribed auditing and accounting standards.

COMPENSATION: Regular employee benefits apply; salary ranges from $27,437.44 to $46,920.20 (Pay Level 34).

Interested individuals may pick up an application and the complete position description from the NMI Retirement Fund, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Interested applicants must submit their application, resume, educational (college degree) and professional (certification) credentials, and police clearance on or before **5:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 22, 2008.** Applications will be accepted by hand delivery, e-mail or postal mail. **Late or incomplete application packages will not be accepted.** Packages must be marked "JVA# 08-006 Confidential." and addressed to:

Mark Aguon, Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
PO Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

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Americans lead the Ryder Cup after tense day

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Birdie putts fell one on top of the other, almost too quickly to keep up. Fists pumps charged up the crowd, often accompanied by players screaming above the din to celebrate.

Eight matches, 138 holes, 86 birdies, all crammed into 10 hours Saturday at the Ryder Cup.

When a gripping day at Valhalla ended, with both teams huddled on the grassy banks surrounding the 18th green to watch yet another match go the distance, the Americans clung to a 9-7 lead, ahead going into the last round for the first time since 1995.

"Anything could have happened," U.S. captain Paul Azinger said.

Save that thought for Sunday.

The Americans hung on for two key halves in the afternoon fourballs, none bigger than Steve Stricker holing an 15-foot birdie putt on the final hole, finally giving them a fighting chance to wrest that 17-inch gold chalice from Europe.

"We're happy to be in the position we're in," Azinger said. "But there's a long, long way to go. And we know that."

The Americans need only 5 1/2 points from 12 singles matches Sunday to win the Ryder Cup for the first time since 1999, but even with a two-point lead, this Ryder Cup could go either way.

The shotmaking has been spectacular. The shifts in momentum have been unpredictable. Who would have thought Phil Mickelson and Anthony Kim would lose a 4-up lead to Henrik Stenson and Oliver Wilson in the morning, or that Mickelson and Hunter Mahan would lose a 2-up lead with seven holes to play against Stenson and Robert Karlsson?

"It seems like Ryder Cups kind of take things to another level," European captain Nick Faldo said. "The putting and the shots have been amazing. Everything. These guys are able to produce unbelievable stuff at times."

That they did.

Boo Weekley hit out of a bunker from 144 yards to 2 feet for a tap-in birdie, only for Lee Westwood to match his birdie from 10 feet. For every big putt by Sergio Garcia, Stricker had an answer.

The intensity should return quickly Sunday, with Kim and Garcia in the first of 12 matches. Faldo put two of his strongest players at the end—Westwood in the 11th match against Ben Curtis, and British Open and PGA winner Padraig Harrington as the anchor against Chad Campbell.

Azinger and Faldo passed each other at the end of the day.

"Tough day in the office," Faldo said.

"A roller coaster," Azinger replied.

It showed in their faces during an afternoon sessions. One minute, it looked as though the Americans would build a 10-6 lead; the next, it looked as though they wouldn't have any lead at all.

Ian Poulter's eyes nearly popped out of his sockets after making a 30-inch birdie putt that looked like 30 feet. Poulter arrived as a controversial captain's pick, but he was the only European to play all four matches and he delivered three vital points.

Europe has built overwhelming leads the last two times, practically icing the champagne on Saturday night.

Hold onto your tops.

"It was amazing golf," Azinger said. "It's amazing because there's so much pressure here and so much tension and you see in pressure situations the best performance in sports. A two-point lead is great. To have a two-point lead going into singles, we're happy."

The final margin wasn't determined until Mahan, unbeaten in all four matches in his Ryder Cup debut, hit his approach to the collar of the green for an eagle attempt from 20 feet. Karlsson followed with a second shot in the par 5 that settled 12 feet behind the hole. Both narrowly missed. Both teams exhaled.

For Karlsson, it was his seventh birdie in 10 holes.

"That's an unbelieveable two days," Poulter said. "I think we got a huge piece of momentum today, and the guys are pumped—proper, proper pumped. This is what the Ryder Cup is all about."

Some of the American rookies found that out.

Weekley toned down his celebration until after his great shots, and there were plenty. Kentucky native J.B. Holmes delivered a putt that put the Americans up over Westwood and Soren Hansen, but Weekley stole the show.

He holed a 25-foot putt off the back of the 14th green for a 2-up lead, then hit a bunker shot to 2 feet on the next hole. Asked where he would rank that shot among the top 10 of his career, Weekley replied, "I reckon No. 9. I done had eight hole-in-ones."

They won on the 17th hole when Westwood failed to extend the match with a 15-foot birdie.

It was the first time in six years the Englishman lost a Ryder Cup match, an unbeaten streak of 12 matches that left him tied with Arnold Palmer and more disappointed for the team than himself.

"The Ryder Cup is not about individuals," Westwood said. "It's about the team."

The rest of the afternoon was a highlight show.

■ With the match all square, Karlsson poured in a 12-foot birdie putt at No. 14, and Mickelson followed him in from 10 feet.

■ Jim Furyk hit his approach on the 15th within inches of the cup and it looked as if he and Kenny Perry would square their match against Poulter and Graeme McDowell. But McDowell knocked in a nervy 5-footer for birdie.

■ Garcia knocked in a 35-foot birdie putt up the ridge on No. 8, screaming, "Come on! Come on!" when it fell. The quiet Stricker then topped him with an 18-foot birdie, and in a rare display of emotion, lunged forward and pumped his fist. "I am not that type of player that you saw out there, I guarantee," he said. "In competition like this, it truly does come out."

■ Karlsson was 4 feet away for birdie on the 16th when Mahan dropped a 10-footer.

It was like that all afternoon.

Azinger ripped off his cap in celebration and crossed his fingers before every putt, showing nerves that he swore he wouldn't have.

"My stomach is just churning," he said.

Faldo, meanwhile, must have felt vindicated.

The BBC roasted him throughout the morning for leaving out Westwood and Garcia from the morning session, the European tandem that hardly every loses, and sending out what appeared to be a sacrificial lamb in English rookie Oliver Wilson and Stenson.

They faced Mickelson and Kim, fell four holes behind after six holes, but rallied to tie the match six holes later. With a 1-up lead on the 17th, Wilson holed a 30-foot birdie putt to win the match.

Trailing by three points after the first day, Europe won two foursomes matches and halved another in the morning to pull within two points, winning its first session of the Ryder Cup. After a split in the afternoon, it comes down to Sunday.

Singles traditionally has been the Americans' strength, but no longer.

Europe has the stronger team based on the world ranking. Europe has the won the last three Ryder Cups, and five of the last six. And Europe has trounced the Americans in singles the last two times.

But that was when it held a comfortable lead. For the first time since 1995, they have some catching up to do.

AP

United States team captain Paul Azinger, left, hugs Steve Stricker after their four-ball match at the Ryder Cup golf tournament at the Valhalla Golf Club, in Louisville, Ky., Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008. The U.S. and Europe halved the hole.

NFL BRIEFS

Chargers' Tomlinson limited in return to practice

SAN DIEGO (AP)—LaDainian Tomlinson returned to practice in a limited role Friday and is listed as questionable for the San Diego Chargers' game against the New York Jets on Monday night. Tomlinson, who jammed his right big toe in the season-opening loss to Carolina, missed practice the previous two days. "It went OK," Tomlinson said. "I did what I wanted to do. I didn't expect to do full participation but I wanted to get out and do some stuff running the football. It definitely is a lot better than last week. That's the exciting part about it. "But at that same time, I'm going to be realistic about it. I'm pretty sure on Monday, I'll probably still have a little problem with it but it will be a week better." Tomlinson aggravated the toe during the second quarter of Sunday's loss to Denver. Reserve Darren Sproles started the second half, though Tomlinson did see limited action during the final two quarters. Coach Norv Turner said Tomlinson was "limited" during Friday's practice. Turner said he isn't sure how much Tomlinson will be able to contribute. "I don't think you know until you get into the game, and that's why you have to have flexibility in your plan. One thing working in Tomlinson's favor is an extra day of recovery time. "It will give me some more time. That's why I definitely think I'll feel a lot better," Tomlinson said. "What's the percentage? I'm not sure. We'll have to wait and see."

The Chargers also listed left tackle Marcus McNeill as questionable. McNeill missed each of the first two games because of a neck injury. Center Nick Hardwick (foot) will miss his third straight game.

Saints sign Harrington as third QB

METAIRIE, La. (AP)—The "piano man," Joey Harrington, has landed a new gig in New Orleans. He'll be playing third fiddle behind starting quarterback Drew Brees and backup Mark Brunell. Harrington signed with the Saints and participated in his first practice Friday at the team's suburban training center, a day before the Saints were set to leave for Sunday's game at Denver. Harrington, a standout at Oregon also known for his talent as a pianist, has spent six seasons in the NFL since being drafted third overall by Detroit in 2002. He played for Miami in 2006 and for Atlanta last season. He appeared in 12 games for the Falcons, completing nearly 62 percent of his passes for 2,215 yards, seven touchdowns and eight interceptions. The Saints opened training camp with three quarterbacks, but cut Tyler Palko before the regular season. To make room on the active roster, the Saints waived defensive tackle Alvin McKinley.

Browns' Edwards questionable for Sunday

CLEVELAND (AP)—Browns wide receiver Braylon Edwards was limited in practice Friday and listed as questionable for Sunday's game at Baltimore. Edwards, who has had a rough start to the season with five drops for the 0-2 Browns, is dealing with an injured shoulder. It's likely the Browns will be without guard Eric Steinbach, who strained his shoulder in last Sunday's loss to Pittsburgh, and linebacker Willie McGinest (hamstring). Both missed their third straight day of practice Friday. Wide receiver Donte' Stallworth (quadriceps), who has yet to play in a game for Cleveland, missed practice again and is questionable.

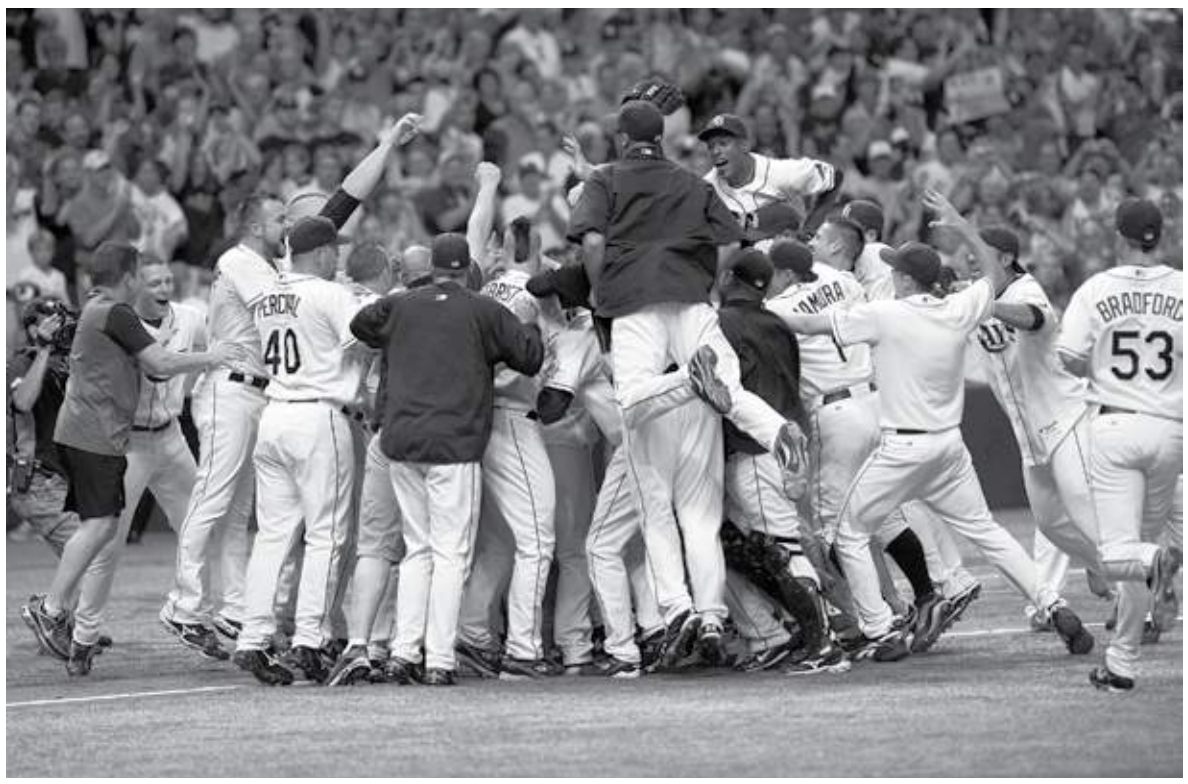
Rays clinch first playoff berth in franchise history

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—The Tampa Bay Rays secured their first berth in the Major League Baseball playoffs with a 7-2 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Saturday.

Carlos Pena hit a two-run double and Scott Kazmir rebounded from the worst start of his career to pitch six scoreless innings to help the American League East leaders wrap up at least a wild-card spot.

Cliff Floyd and Fernando Perez capped the biggest win in the club's 11 seasons with solo home runs. The Rays also extended their lead in the division to 2 1/2 games over Boston.

The crowd of 36,048 that packed Tropicana Field stood for the entire ninth inning, chanting "Let's Go Rays" and clanging cowbells. The Twins delayed the celebration by scoring twice, but the party was on once third baseman Evan Longoria chased down Joe Mauer's foul pop for the final out.



AP

Tampa Bay Rays players celebrate a 7-2 win over the Minnesota Twins to clinch a playoff spot during a baseball game Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008 in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Blue Jays 6, Red Sox 3

At Toronto, Roy Halladay worked six innings to earn his 19th win, Scott Rolen homered and Toronto kept its faint playoff hopes alive.

Toronto pulled within 7 1/2 games of Boston in the American League wild-card race. The Blue Jays have seven games remaining, and the Red Sox have eight.

Halladay (19-11) won for the first time in three starts, allowing three runs and six hits. He struck out three to give him 201 for the season, passing 200 for the second time in his career.

Jason Bay hit a two-run homer on his 30th birthday for the Red Sox, while Jon Lester (15-6) gave up five runs and eight hits in seven innings.

Yankees 1, Orioles 0

At New York, Robinson Cano hit an RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning and New York staved off playoffs elimination.

Playing what is likely to be the penultimate game at Yankee Stadium, New York got a perfect inning from Mariano Rivera (6-5) and a fine start by impressive rookie Alfredo Aceves.

But it was a painful victory. Derek Jeter left after getting hit on the hand by a pitch in the ninth, which started the winning rally. Jeter's status for Sunday was uncertain, though it's hard to imagine him missing the Yankee Stadium farewell no matter how badly he's hurt.

Brian Burres was even better than Aceves, shutting down the Yankees on three hits through seven innings. Jim Miller (0-2) got the loss.

Athletics 8, Mariners 7

At Oakland, California, Daric Barton hit a go-ahead RBI single in the eighth inning and Oakland handed Seattle its season-worst 10th straight loss.

Carlos Gonzalez led off the eighth with a single and advanced on Rob Bowen's sacrifice. He went to third on Travis Buck's hit off Justin Thomas (0-1) and scored when Barton lined a single into right.

Jeff Baisley went 2-for-2 with four RBIs and Bowen also drove in two runs for Oakland.

Kenji Johjima homered and drove in four runs for the Mariners.

Royals 5, White Sox 2

At Kansas City, Missouri, Kyle Davies gave up three hits in seven-plus innings as Kansas City beat Chicago for its eighth win in nine games.

David DeJesus hit an inside-the-park home run, and Alex Gordon and Kila Ka'aihue also homered for the Royals.

Gavin Floyd (16-8) took the loss, only his second in 12 starts since July 19.

Indians 6, Tigers 3

At Cleveland, Choo Shin-soo continued his hot September and Jeremy Sowers pitched six strong innings to help Cleveland beat Detroit.

Choo, who is batting .448 (26-for-58) with 17 RBIs in 18 games this month, drove in two runs with a bases-loaded single in the fourth.

With the exception of one hit batter that didn't cause an incident, all was quiet one night after the teams were involved in a bench-clearing brawl.

Angels 7, Rangers 3

At Arlington, Texas, Francisco Rodriguez earned MLB season saves record to 60 and Garret Anderson homered and drove in three runs to help Los Angeles beat Texas.

Justin Speier (2-8) struck out four in 1 2-3 innings of relief and got out of a key jam in the sixth to keep the game tied at 3.

Vicente Padilla (13-8) took the loss.

Cubs 5, Cardinals 4

At Chicago, the Chicago Cubs clinched their second straight National League Central title by beating the St. Louis Cardinals behind Ted Lilly's seven innings at rocking Wrigley Field.

The 41,597 fans jammed into the old neighborhood ballpark were ready to party as they watched the Cubs earn consecutive playoff appearances for the first time since 1908, when they also last won the World Series.

Lilly was sailing along with a 5-0 lead when the Cardinals scored four runs with two out in the sixth, including a three-run homer by Troy Glaus.

Lilly, who earned his career-best 16th win, regrouped in the seventh and relievers Carlos Marmol and Kerry Wood held off the Cardinals to set off celebrations on the mound.

Reds 4, Brewers 3

At Cincinnati, pitcher Micah Owings had a pinch-hit single off CC Sabathia with the bases loaded in the sixth inning to help Cincinnati win and deepen Milwaukee's angst.

The Brewers have lost 15 of 19 this month, blowing a 5 1/2-game lead in the wild-card race. Milwaukee started the day two games behind Philadelphia for the playoff spot.

The latest loss fit the profile of their disastrous month.

A fielding error enabled Cincinnati's comeback, a pitcher drove in the go-ahead run, and Brewers reliever Eric Gagne tripped and fell on the mound while throwing a pitch as the game wound down. The Brewers also left the bases loaded in the ninth.

Braves 4, Mets 2

At Atlanta, Pedro Martinez got off to a slow start and the New York Mets never recovered in a loss to Atlanta.

Kelly Johnson hit an RBI double off Martinez in Atlanta's three-run first inning, rookie Josh Anderson had three hits and the Braves won to end the Mets' three-game winning streak.

Martinez (5-6) lost his third straight decision, giving up nine hits and four runs in six innings. With the loss the Mets fell a half-game behind of the Phillies in the NL East.

Phillies 3, Marlins 2

At Miami, the Phillies went ahead, fell behind, rallied and held on, escaping threats in the final three innings to beat Florida and reclaim first place in the NL East from the New York Mets.

The Phillies' eighth win in the past nine games left them with a half-game lead over the Mets, who lost to Atlanta 4-2. Philadelphia ended the Marlins' nine-game winning streak and dealt a blow to their faint playoff hopes.

Joe Blanton (3-0) struck out nine in five innings and left with a 3-2 lead. Ryan Madson escaped a two-on, no-out jam in the eighth, and Brad Lidge stranded a runner at second in the ninth for his 39th save in 39 chances.

Dodgers 10, Giants 7

At Los Angeles, Manny Ramirez hit two homers and drove in five runs, Angel Berroa drew a two-out, bases-loaded walk in the seventh to force in the go-ahead run, and Los Angeles beat San Francisco to lower its magic number for winning the NL West championship to five.

By winning for the 16th time in 20 games, the Dodgers remained 3 1/2 games ahead of second-place Arizona with seven remaining. Any combination of five Los Angeles wins or losses by the Diamondbacks will give the Dodgers their first division title since 2004 and just their fifth playoff berth in the last 20 years.

Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 3

At Denver, Stephen Drew hit a two-out, two-run homer in the top of the ninth and Arizona ended its 11-game road losing streak with a victory over Colorado.

The Diamondbacks remained 3 1/2 games behind Los Angeles in the NL West. The Dodgers beat the Giants 10-7.

Jeff Baker had two hits, including a home run, and two RBIs, and Troy Tulowitzki and Ian Stewart had two hits apiece for the Rockies.

Pirates 6, Astros 4

At Pittsburgh, Ryan Doumit drove in three runs with a pair of triples in the first two innings and Pittsburgh built a five-run lead in the first inning before holding on to beat the skidding Houston.

Houston, which was threatening to take the wild card lead 10 days ago after running off 14 wins in 15 games, lost for the sixth time in seven games and is all but out of the NL playoff picture with eight games remaining. The Astros began the night 4 1/2 games out of the wild card lead.

The Astros' slump is the result of poor hitting—they scored only five runs in five games before winning 5-1 on Friday—but their pitching shouldered the blame for their eighth loss in 15 games to the last-place Pirates.

Padres 6, Nationals 1

At Washington, Chris Young allowed just two hits in seven innings and hit the first home run of his career to lead San Diego over Washington.

Young, who spent much of the season on the disabled list, won for just the second time since May 16. Two starts ago, he dazzled the Milwaukee Brewers on two hits after throwing 7 2-3 perfect innings.

Oden's is no crossover artist—and he knows it

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Greg Oden can dunk, but he can't carry a tune.

The 7-foot Trail Blazer has gotten a lot of attention for his rendition of N'Sync's "It's Gonna Be Me." A video of the performance has made the rounds on the Internet.

This much is clear: There's no danger of Oden testing the "crossover" waters a la Kobe Bryant or Ron Artest. In fact, his singing could best be likened to Chewbaca's wails in "Star Wars."

But it was all in good fun.

A little background: The video was shot a couple of weeks ago during a charity event, Greg Oden's Summer Slam. Portland's center is involved with Oregon Mentors, a nonprofit organization that supports youth mentoring programs.

Oden grabbed the mic to showcase his karaoke skills.

One nicer blogger suggested Oden should stick with basketball. Another said the performance popped his eardrums. Even the celebrity gossip site TMZ posted the video.

John Canzano, columnist for The Oregonian newspaper, called it "arguably the worst karaoke performance by a human over 7 feet tall." Still, Canzano praised Oden's effort for the children: "I love that he's uninterested in looking cool, and isn't afraid to embarrass himself."

Oden even blogged about himself.

He wrote (and the typos are his): "People have already seen the video of me singing N'synce "Its Gonna Be Me," im not gonna lie, i sound terrible. My thing was it was for the kids they enjoyed me singing so thats all that matters."

Oden's self-effacing humor is just one of the ways he has endeared himself to Trail Blazers fans who were so elated when the team landed him with the No. 1 pick in 2007—and then so deflated when his rookie season was postponed by knee surgery.

Oden had microfracture surgery on his right knee last September. Recovery time can take as little as six months, but the Blazers exercised caution and sat him for the season.

Despite his injury, Oden was very much a part of the Blazers last season. He was a looming presence on the bench at home games and on many road trips. In the pregame videoboard introduction of the team, his face was right there with those of Brandon Roy, LaMarcus Aldridge and the rest of his teammates.

Oden only recently started five-on-five drills with the team. He was among many players who showed up early for workouts before Portland's preseason schedule gets under way Oct. 7 at the Rose Garden Arena against the Sacramento Kings.

All reports indicate that Oden is in fine form for his impending rookie season. So, while he's no singer, it won't be long before he gets to show where his real talent lies.

Let's just hope he doesn't try the national anthem.

8 games set for opening day of Oceania youth caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI Junior Nationals' Jericho Cruz is sandwiched by two Suns defenders during their game in the Rotary caging Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The Junior Nationals are leaving for Guam this week for the 7th FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament.

Eight matches are lined up for the opening day of the 7th FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament at the University of Guam Fieldhouse this Sunday.

All eight squads participating in the annual Oceania caging which will run from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4 will play on Day 1.

The CNMI Women's Junior Nationals will meet Tahiti in the women's Pool A match at 1pm on Court 1, while powerhouse Australia will battle Palau in the men's Pool A game on Court 2.

At 3pm, Tahiti will face Fiji in the men's Pool A on Court 1, while Palau cagebelles will test the mettle of Papua New Guinea players on Court 2 for the women's Pool B game.

Australia's Boomers will clash with Fiji at 5pm in the women's Pool A game on Court 1, while Papua New Guinea will take on New Caledonia in men's Pool A match.

Action in the opening day will resume at 8pm to give way to the opening ceremonies of the tournament at 7pm.

The Rufino Aguon-mentored CNMI Junior Nationals will challenge host Guam in the men's Pool B match on Court 1 after the opening rites, while Guam cagebelles will battle New Caledonia on Court 2 for the women's Pool A game.

Preliminary games in the men's and women's divisions will continue on Sept. 29 and 30 before players take a break and participate in a 3-on-3 tournament and cultural performance on Oct. 1.

The quarterfinals will start on Oct. 2 with all four teams advancing to the next phase of the tournament. The semifinal round is set for Oct. 3, while the gold medal game and the consolation match will be played on Oct. 4.

At the conclusion of the annual caging, FIBA Oceania will name the All-Star Team which will be competing in a tournament in Australia next month.

Alaska subdues Rain or Shine on big 2nd half spree

MANILA, Philippines—Joe Devance and L.A. Tenorio fired 15 points apiece to power the Alaska Aces past the Rain or Shine Elasto Painters, 90-77, Wednesday in the PBA Pre-Season Tournament at the Lyceum of the Philippines gym.

The Aces, who went biggie this season with the acquisition of Devance and Erwin Sotto, dominated the Elasto Painters with their size and broke the game open in the second half.

"Joe brings a new dimension to the team," said Alaska coach Tim Cone of Devance, who hardly made an impact with Rain or Shine (then still named Welcoat), the team that made him the No.1 rookie pick last year.

Alaska acquired Devance in exchange for No.3 rookie pick Solomon Mercado and veteran wingman Eddie Laure while Sotto, a reliable 6-foot-7 backup center, was released by Air21 unconditionally.

Devance appeared more comfortable with his role on the Aces' fold. While he's sure to be part of Alaska's starting unit, the 6-foot-7 Devance will not have to worry about scoring a lot as he used to with Rain or Shine, which built its team around him and made him its franchise player.

Willie Miller scored 14 points and Sonny Thoss added 12 for the Aces, who will be going for their second victory in Group A against the Purefoods TJ Giants on Monday at the Arellano Gym.

"We're not yet there, but we're getting better," said Cone, looking forward to a promising season.

Laure, fully recovered from an injury that sidelined him for most of last season, scored 15 points against his former ballclub. Gabe Norwood, the No.1 pick in the recent draft, contributed 13 although he hardly made an impression.

While Norwood and Mercado struggled to find their rhythm, second round pick (12th overall) T.Y. Tang drew attention with his playmaking ability and sound leadership. His best moment came late in the first quarter when he scored all his nine points during a 14-0 run as Rain or Shine rallied from a four-point deficit and went on to end the quarter up 25-20.

The game see-sawed in the second quarter before the Aces seized control by opening the second half with a 10-0 blast that gave them a 56-44 advantage that was never threatened the rest of the way. Miller and Tenorio closed that run with back-to-back threes.

The tournament resumes at 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon with Purefoods taking on Fiesta Conference champion Barangay Ginebra at the San Beda gym.

Alaska 90 – Devance 15, Tenorio 15, Miller 14, Thoss 12, Cariaso 10, Dela Cruz 9, Fonacier 7, Hugnatan 4, Sotto 4, Quimahan 0, Ferriols 0.

Rain or Shine 77 – Laure 15, Norwood 13, Reyes 11, Tang 9, Andaya 6, Wainwright 5, Dulay 5, Arana 5, Isisp 4, Salangsang 2, Lopez 0.

Quarters: 20-25; 46-44; 69-59; 90-77. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

NMC

From Page 28

But PTI foiled NMC's bid for back-to-back finals appearance with a convincing 94-90 victory Thursday night.

The loss dropped NMC to the losers' bracket and put the Rufino Aguon-mentored squad in a must-win situation against Autonomous.

Autonomous earned the right to face NMC for the second finals berth after outlasting the Department of Corrections Friday night, 83-69.

Tonight's game will be the third time that NMC will be facing Autonomous with the former holding a 2-0 record against the latter.

NMC, which finished the regular season with a 10-1 record, won against Autonomous in the elimination round via forfeiture.

The pennant champion routed the Legislature in its first game in the double-elimination playoffs and was pitted against Autonomous in the second round. Autonomous downed DOC in its first game in the playoffs, 82-68.

Spectators were expecting a close game between Autonomous and NMC in the second round, but the latter whipped the former, 88-77.

In that loss, Autonomous played without Ed Diaz and Tim Wesley. Wesley was off island, while Diaz missed Autonomous last two games due to an injury before suiting up for the defending champions in their victory over DOC last week.

Diaz announced his re-entry to the Autonomous' roster via a 25-point performance against Corrections. Wesley also made significant contributions for Autonomous, adding 15 markers.

With Diaz and Wesley around, helping Bobby Coldeen on offense, Autonomous hardly felt the absence of Ponce Rasa in their game against DOC.

If Autonomous' four gunners and former NCAA player Richard Brostrom are available for tonight's game, the defending champion will have a solid starting five against NMC

But Autonomous' bench is doubtful, as it has only Chris Camacho and Mitch Aaron coming off the bench.

NMC has several players to back up starters Mark Wallace, Jose Tumaquip, Joe Villacrusis, Mel Manibusan, and Jerry Diaz. Aguon can count on himself, Gyles Ruluked, Lawrence Buniag, Jacob Villagomez, Ray Roberto, and Chris Tomokane.

The winner of the NMC-Autonomous playoff match will have to prevail against PTI twice to claim this year's championship trophy. PTI earned a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals after sweeping its first three games in the playoffs.

WABOL

From Page 28

for Olopai.

With their effort, Team 2A won the top prize of a one night stay at the hotel's Regency Club and Sunday Brunch for two at Giovanni's.

"You have to get up early in the morning but it's worth it," Wabol said after the awarding ceremony at the Garapan landmark's poolside. "We have to come back and defend the title next year."

Team 13B, who had a handicap of 14.4, had a gross of 78 to finish second with a net of 63.6. The team was composed of Paz Younis, Edgar Abalos, James Lee, and John Sablan. They won a one night stay in a Deluxe Room at the Hyatt and a dinner for two at Kili Café and Terrace.

Team 5A (Team Mobil), composed of George Moses and Newman Techur—and a handicap of 7.2—had a gross of 72 to settle for third place after gaining a net of 64.8. They won a 60-minute Swedish massage at I'Sugua Spa and lunch buffet for two at Miyako.

In his message, Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa said the event provided participants an opportunity to get to know reach other in one of life's enjoyable pastimes.

He said proceeds of the event will help a child fulfill a life-long dream and that is incredibly rewarding for the company.

A total of 26 teams made up of 106 players participated in a one-day fund-raising event that drew 45 corporate sponsors.

Organizers however have yet to release the total amount of the funds they have raised after the tournament, which ended with a banquet at the Hyatt Regency Saipan poolside.

The sponsors included Tan Holdings Corp., Ben's International, Chong's Corp., Chung Nam Corp., Coca Cola, Coral Ocean Point, DFS Galeria Saipan, Elite Printing, Grand Hyatt Fukuoka, Grand Hyatt Seoul, Hertz, Hyatt Regency Guam, Hyatt Regency Osaka, JC Marketing Inc., KZMI, Kautz Glass Co., Hyatt Hotel & Casino Manila, Joeten Motors, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Luen Fung Enterprises, MARPAC, Marianas Eye Institute, Marianas Variety, MVA, Microl Corp., Mobil Oil Marianas, Northwest Airlines, Pacific Islands Club, Pacific Saipan, Pacific Trading Co., Pacific Wines & Spirits, PTI, Rota Resort, Sablan Topline, SaipanCell Communications, Saipan Sea Venture, Saipan Sunset Cruise, SandCastel, Sanki, Tinian Dynasty, Titan Imports, Triple J Motors, UMDA, Western Union, and Yaong Corporation.

MIX

From Page 28

Saipal defeated Tebelik Charm, 13-5 and it needed to beat the Warriors, 6-2, to arrange a final showdown with Mix.

SaiPal, thus, scored a 12-8 win over Mix to set-up the winner-take-all match.

Mix had an 11-4 lead after two complete innings behind the successive hits of Roy Celis, Jerry Ayuyu, Manny Sablan, and company at the top of the second.

Warriors, which placed third, reached the semifinal match with Saipal by beating Tebelik Charm, 7-3, and Angels, 5-3.

PCA president Rufino Aguon thanked SaipanCell for its continued sponsorship of the tournament.

The fund they raised in the tournament totaled about $600, including expenses.

"The turnout was good enough for us to be happy. Despite the weather, the show went on as scheduled. Everybody was having fun," Aguon said.

The champion team won $500 and a trophy.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Tampa Bay	92	61	.601	–
Boston	90	64	.584	2 1/2
New York	84	71	.542	9
Toronto	83	72	.535	10
Baltimore	67	86	.438	25

Central Division

Chicago	85	69	.552	–
Minnesota	83	72	.535	2 1/2
Cleveland	77	77	.500	8
Detroit	71	82	.464	13 1/2
Kansas City	70	85	.452	15 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	95	59	.617	–
Texas	75	80	.484	20 1/2
Oakland	73	81	.474	22
Seattle	57	97	.370	38

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	87	68	.561	–
New York	86	68	.558	1/2
Florida	81	73	.526	5 1/2
Atlanta	68	87	.439	19
Washington	58	97	.374	29

Central Division

Chicago	93	60	.608	–
Milwaukee	84	71	.542	10
Houston	81	73	.526	12 1/2
St. Louis	80	74	.519	13 1/2
Cincinnati	72	82	.468	21 1/2
Pittsburgh	65	90	.419	29

West Division

Los Angeles	81	74	.523	–
Arizona	77	77	.500	3 1/2
Colorado	71	84	.458	10
San Francisco	69	86	.445	12
San Diego	60	95	.387	21

Yesterday's Games

St. Louis 12, Chicago Cubs 6
Houston 5, Pittsburgh 1
Florida 14, Philadelphia 8
Cincinnati 11, Milwaukee 2
N.Y. Mets 9, Atlanta 5
San Diego 11, Washington 6, 14 innings
Colorado 3, Arizona 2
San Francisco 7, L.A. Dodgers 1
N.Y. Yankees 1, Baltimore 0
Toronto 6, Boston 3
Tampa Bay 7, Minnesota 2
Oakland 8, Seattle 7
Cleveland 6, Detroit 3
Kansas City 5, Chicago White Sox 2
L.A. Angels 7, Texas 3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

Junior netters, soccer take spotlight

Far left, Rafael Jones is invited to play for the Pacific Oceania Touring Team and join tournaments in New Zealand.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Center, Thea Minor will compete in New Zealand for the second straight year after receiving another invitation to join the Pacific Oceania Touring Team.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Right, Asian Football Confederations' John Whittle explains to participants the importance of giving everyone a chance to play.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Sixers' Matt Duenas, left, pressures the Kontenders' Jester Kaipat at the sideline.

Participants of the MIFICPA "Bowling Fun Day" in a group photo before the tournament at the Capital Bowling Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Last weekend's headlines featured triumphs of teams and individuals, but what stood out were the big breakthroughs made by two of the most active sports federations in the CNMI—tennis and football.

Three junior players of Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association were invited to compete in three tournaments in New Zealand. The list include Thea Minor, Rafael Jones, and Christian Miller.

The trio will be part of the ITF Pacific Oceania Touring Team and will be pitted against Kiwi and Australian players in December.

Having three players suiting up for the ITF Pacific Oceania squad was a big achievement for the NMITA junior tennis program, according to CNMI coach and association vice president Jeff Race.

"In the past we have had at most one invited to be a part of these teams, but to have three is a great testament to the hard work of these players, the sacrifices and commitment of their families and the success of the overall tennis program here on Saipan," Race said.

Another sports federation which scored a milestone as far as its youth program is concerned was the Northern Mariana Island Football Association.

NMIFA's program for young strikers got a needed boost when Former Chelsea goalkeeper John Whittle visited Saipan last week and shared his expertise on grassroots and youth football development to more than 40 coaches/players/parents through a one-day workshop held at the Azucena Room II of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Whittle, who served as national development officer in South Island in New Zealand for 10 years, emphasized to the participants the importance of giving everyone a chance to play football and creating a tailor-made program for them.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Members of the GCA Eagles pose for a group photo being taken by a supporter.

"Kids, whose skills are neither develop or undeveloped, come to the field just for the fun of playing. Winning or losing, allow them to play," said Whittle, who now works for the Asian Football Confederation as acting director of the Grassroots and Youth Department

While NMIFA is just about to start its league, the PTI caging has reached its final phase with PTI making it to the finals.

PTI claimed the first finals ticket after beating NMC, 94-90, in the semifinals of the winners' bracket. NMC will meet defending champion Autonomous tonight for the right to face PTI in the finals.

The PTI caging is expected to conclude this week after frequent power outages forced the league to last for more than four months.

Power outages also affected the first two weeks of the Rotary caging, but all games last week were completed.

Action in the private schools' volleyball league also proceeded as scheduled last week with Grace Christian Academy and Saipan International

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

"Leapfrog" race's winning tandem, Butch Sublemente, left, and Ronald Villafria.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Corrections' Luis Iguel is called for an offensive foul after forcing his way through the defense of Autonomous' Richard Brostrom.

School in the winning end.

Joining last weekend's winners' circle were Butch Sublemente and Ronald Villafria, who ruled the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation's "Leapfrog" Race.

Villafria and Sublemente finished the 8.5-mile stretch from Paupau Beach via Kalabera Rd-Pale Arnold Rd. junction and Banzai Cliff and back in only 47.23 and 47.56, respectively.

No bikes were needed in the "Bowling Fun Day" organized by the Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants at the Capital Bowling Center last week, just steady arms and legs.

Saipan Stevedore showed its winning form to beat 13 other teams in the one-day tournament, which aimed to bring together members and nonmembers of the organization and promote camaraderie through sports.

SaiPal did not win a cash prize, but earned bragging rights for ending Shell Marianas reign in the 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Modified Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Tournament.

Junior netters, soccer take spotlight

Last weekend's headlines featured triumphs of teams and individuals, but what stood out were the big breakthrough made by two of the most active sports federations in the CNMI–tennis and football.

27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Americans lead the Ryder Cup after tense day

Birdie putts fell one on top of the other, almost too quickly to keep up. Fists pumps charged up the crowd, often accompanied by players screaming above the din to celebrate.

24

Wabol, Team 2A top Hyatt Golf Classic

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan's ace par-buster Jess Wabol finally won the championship in a tournament where the lowest gross score does not really matter.

"I'm really happy. This is the first time I won in this tournament," said Wabol after leading Team 2A to the championship in last Saturday's 13th Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. The event was held for the benefit of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Wabol, along with his teammates Bae Yong Man and junior golfer Louis Byun, had to carry the load because Tars Olopai, their fourth player, did not show up. Aside from this, the trio also played with a zero handicap in the double peoria handicap system.

Despite the odds, the trio came up with the winning lowest net of 62.

Wabol said Byun played steady as he also substituted

See WABOL on Page 26

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Jess Wabol, center, and teammate Bae Yong Man, left, smile to the camera as they receive their first prize certificates from Club Elan manager Robin Eugenio during the dinner banquet for the 2008 Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic Saturday night.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Autonomous' Chris Camacho stretches for a layup against an NMC defender during their playoff game in the PTI caging. NMC and PTI duels for the last finals ticket tonight.

NMC and Autonomous clash for last finals slot

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Autonomous and Northern Marianas College will duel for the last championship ticket in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League tonight at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Game time is at 7pm.

Incidentally Autonomous (formerly Office of the Public Auditor) and NMC collided in last season's championship showdown and an early rematch in the losers' bracket semifinals tonight would mean one team will miss a return trip to the finals.

NMC, which is this year's pennant winner, had the chance to advance to the finals first when it moved into the winners' bracket semis against PTI.

See NMC on Page 26

Mix retains crown in SaipanCell/PCA softball

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

No Ka Oi sported a new name but the strong team that they are famous for remained intact.

Now known as Mix but with the same players, the team outshone SaiPal, 18-4, in the second of two championship games to successfully defend its crown in the 2008 SaipanCell/Palau Community Association slow-pitch softball tournament held yesterday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

It was a repeat of last year's championship showdown when No Ka Oi defeated Survivors, who also opted to change their team's name to SaiPal.

This year, there were five teams that joined the two-day fund-raising tournament. They were Mix, SaiPal, Tebelik Charm, Angels, and Warriors.

Mix was undefeated on the way to the championship game and in the process gained a twice-to-beat advantage over SaiPal.

Mix opened its campaign with a 18-5 victory over the Angels on Saturday and followed it up with a 10-5 win over SaiPal.

See MIX on Page 26

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Palau Community Association president Rufino Aguon turns over the $500 check to back-to-back champion Mix (formerly No Ka Oi) after winning against Saipal, 18-4, yesterday in the SaipanCell/PCA Slow-pitch Softball Tournament at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Guerrero wins SGA Sept Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Art Deleon Guerrero won the Saipan Golfers Association September Ace Tournament besting 18 other SGA members last week on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Deleon Guerrero shot a net 63 for a five-stroke win over runner Martin Sablan, who drilled a net 68. The newly-minted September Ace now qualifies for the SGA Ace of the Aces tournament, joining early monthly winners Mariano Fajardo, Joe Sablan, Ned Norita, Larry Deleon Guerrero, Carl Hocog, Edward Manibusan, Nobert Sablan, and Ron Hodges.

The 23-handicapper Deleon Guerrero fired a 42 and 44 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 86. Sablan, a 26-handicapper, showed consistency on the east course, making a 47 on both nines for a gross 94.

Three golfers had identical net scores of 72 with John Babauta winning the tiebreak for third place with his 41 on the front nine. The eight-handicaper Babauta scored a 39 on the back for a gross 80.

Frank Rosario, who had a 17 handicap, recorded a 43 and 46 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 89.

The 30-handicapper Takai fired similar scores of 51 on the front and back nines and settled for fifth place.

Other participants in the SGA September Ace were Matias Chargualaf (73), Joe Rosario (74), Tony Deleon Guerrero (75), Norbert Sablan (75), Manibusan (76), Jung Teack (76), Manny Alvarez (77), Steve Balakrishna (77), Jose Sablan (78), Fajardo (79), Das Krishnan (80), Larry Deleon Guerrero (81), Rick Kautz (83), and Ray San Nicolas (87).

Manibusan had the most birdies in the tournament with four (holes No. 1, 2, 3, and 8), while Rick Kautz birdied in holes No. 2 and 4. Nine other players had one birdies each.

In the longest drive contests, John Babauta won in the par-four hole No. 7, while Kautz prevailed in the par-hole hole No. 12.

Manibusan and San Nicolas made closest to the pin shots in par-three hole Nos. 4 and 6, respectively. Jose Sablan had two closest to the pin shots on hole Nos. 11 and 15.